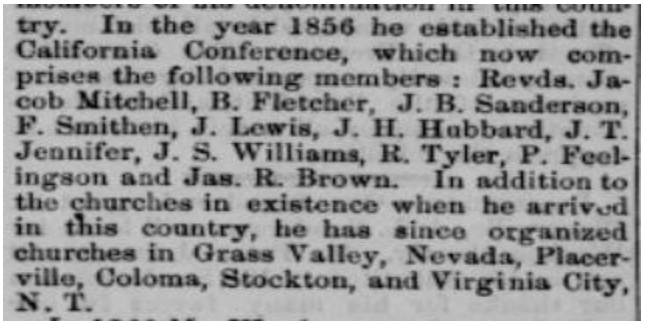
African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

There is little written about the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Coloma, something that is common in the search for documents or facts surrounding Coloma's early history. Hopefully, a photo of this church will one day surface.

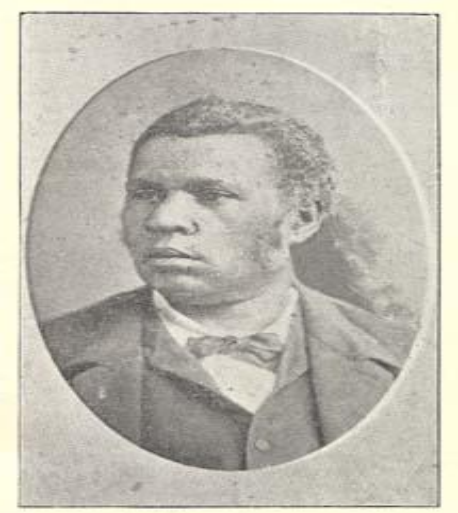
> *"There was a Negro Methodist Church at Coloma in the early days. It stood near the De Lory place on a part of the Julian property. But every vestige has long since disappeared."*[1]

The first mention of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Coloma is found in the *Pacific Appeal* newspaper in June 1863[2].



try. In the year 1856 he established the California Conference, which now comprises the following members : Revds. Jacob Mitchell, B. Fletcher, J. B. Sanderson, F. Smithen, J. Lewis, J. H. Hubbard, J. T. Jennifer, J. S. Williams, R. Tyler, P. Feelingson and Jas. R. Brown. In addition to the churches in existence when he arrived in this country, he has since organized churches in Grass Valley, Nevada, Placerville, Coloma, Stockton, and Virginia City, N. T.

The newspaper reported that in or soon after 1856 there had been African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Churches established in Placerville and Coloma, according to the Reverend T.M.D Ward, Missionary to California and the West.[3] There were no assigned preachers to the El Dorado circuit until 1861.



Bishop T. M. D. Ward, D D.

[4]

One should note that with all religions, the establishment of a church does not necessarily mean a structure was constructed, but a fellowship or following was established. This was also the case with the early African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Coloma and Placerville and other locations in El Dorado County.

Prior to 1861 the Black population was ministered to by the white Methodist Episcopal ministers in the Placerville-Coloma Circuit as reported in the "Minutes of the Third Quarterly Conference of the Coloma Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Uniontown, April 20, 1861", Methodist Archives, Berkeley, CA.

> *Excerpt from Sept. 6, 2000, Congressional Record by the Honorable Robert T. Matsui restating the history of the St. Andrews AME Church in Sacramento that was established in 1850 by Reverend Ward and Barney Fletcher with the help of Isaac*

Owen, a white Methodist Reverend who also established the white Methodist Episcopal Church in Coloma.[5]

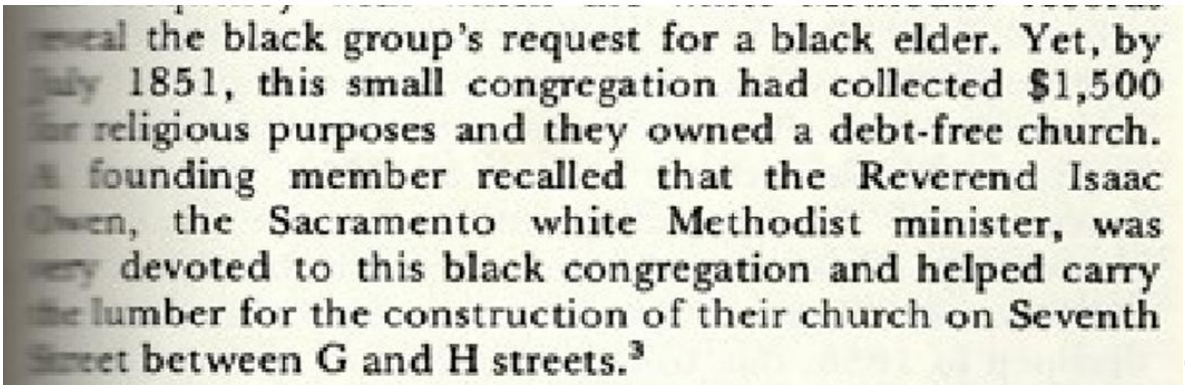
saluting this monumental achievement.

St. Andrew's was founded in 1850, three months before California was admitted as the 31st state to the Union. It is the first African Methodist Episcopal Church and the first African-American religious congregation established on the Pacific Coast of the United States.

In the beginning, a small group of worshipers gathered in Sacramento at the home of Daniel Blue. Under the leadership of Barney Fletcher, this group would form the church that would later be known as St. Andrew's A.M.E. Church. In the fall of 1850, Reverend Isaac Owen, pastor of the Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church, participated in the formal organizing of the church.

The first trustees, James R. Brown, John Barton, George Fletcher, John L. Wilson, and Chesterfield Jackson purchased part of the lot in the square between G and H Streets. At this site, the first church was erected and named the Methodist Church of Colored People of Sacramento. In 1851, the members of the church petitioned the Indiana Conference for admission to the African Methodist Episcopal Church and officially became the Bethel African Methodist Church. Later in the 19th century, the church acquired its current name, St. Andrew's African Methodist Episcopal Church.

From *Blacks in the California Gold Rush*



veal the black group's request for a black elder. Yet, by July 1851, this small congregation had collected $1,500 for religious purposes and they owned a debt-free church. A founding member recalled that the Reverend Isaac Owen, the Sacramento white Methodist minister, was very devoted to this black congregation and helped carry the lumber for the construction of their church on Seventh Street between G and H streets.[3]

In 1861 Reverend T.M.D. Ward appointed the Rev. Peter Killingsworth to make monthly rounds to eight locations in El Dorado County, including Coloma. Jacob Miller from Stockton also makes periodic visits. The Reverend's travels were documented in the 2015 dissertation of Eunsun Celeste Han's, "All Roads Lead to San Francisco" and found in various *Pacific Appeal* newspaper articles.[7]

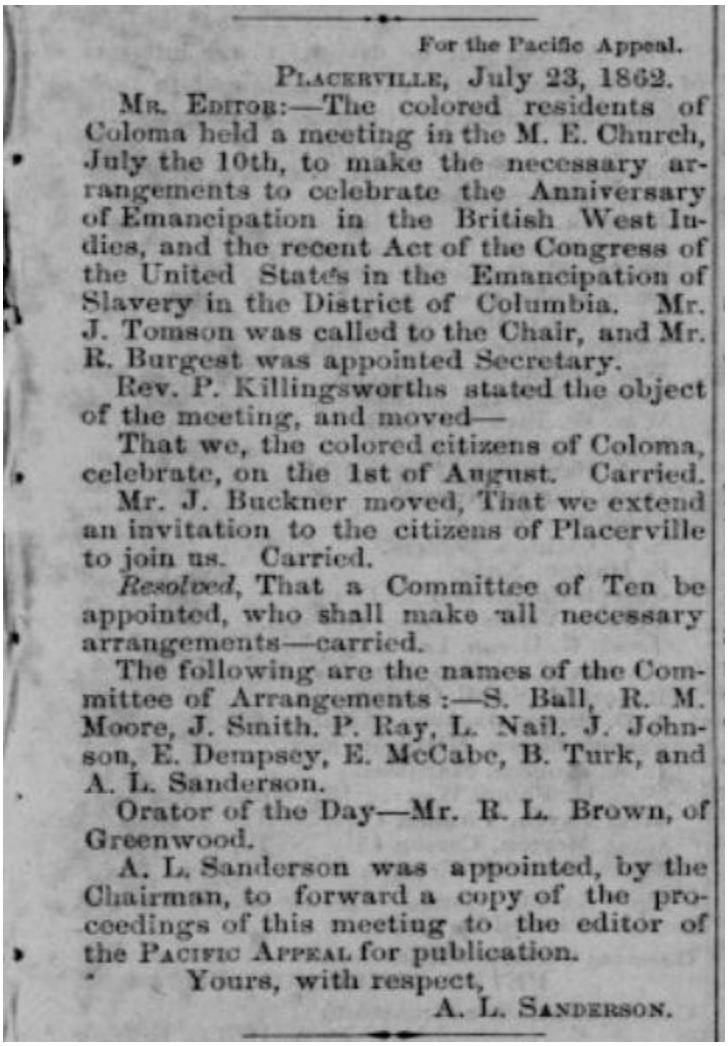
Placerville was established as the seat for the El Dorado AME Circuit until its demise as it maintained the circuits' parsonage.

Although Reverend Killingsworth records himself as an African Methodist Episcopal Clergy, he is not mentioned in the official records of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) as being an AME Elder. It is not clear why he is not listed in the Churches history as a Minister or how he originally was assigned to the El Dorado County circuit and subsequently reassigned to Petaluma prior to his death. Nevertheless, he did devote his life in California to his assigned AME circuits.

Peter Killingsworth purchased both his and his wife's freedom for $3000.00 while living in Atlanta, Georgia. They then immediately migrated to California. Unfortunately, his wife died soon after arriving in California. During the 1865 Colored Convention in Sacramento, he told his story of enslavement and that he took solace in the knowledge that while his wife was no longer alive, her bones lie in the free soil of "El Dorado."[8] (Peter Killingsworth is recorded in the 1852 California Census as living alone in El Dorado County with the occupation of a miner).

There also are period reports in the *Pacific Appeal* of visits to the El Dorado Circuit by Reverend Jacob Miller of the Stockton Circuit early in 1861.

In the July 23, 1862, edition of *Pacific Appeal* newspaper A.L. Sanderson, a house painter from Placerville and lay member of the AME Placerville church reported that the Colored residents of Coloma, El Dorado County met in the Placerville (white) Methodist Episcopal church to plan a Celebration of British West Indies Emancipation.



For the Pacific Appeal.

PLACERVILLE, July 23, 1862.

MR. EDITOR:—The colored residents of Coloma held a meeting in the M. E. Church, July the 10th, to make the necessary arrangements to celebrate the Anniversary of Emancipation in the British West Indies, and the recent Act of the Congress of the United States in the Emancipation of Slavery in the District of Columbia. Mr. J. Tomson was called to the Chair, and Mr. R. Burgest was appointed Secretary.

Rev. P. Killingsworths stated the object of the meeting, and moved—

That we, the colored citizens of Coloma, celebrate, on the 1st of August. Carried.

Mr. J. Buckner moved, That we extend an invitation to the citizens of Placerville to join us. Carried.

Resolved, That a Committee of Ten be appointed, who shall make all necessary arrangements—carried.

The following are the names of the Committee of Arrangements :—S. Ball, R. M. Moore, J. Smith. P. Ray, L. Nail. J. Johnson, E. Dempsey, E. McCabe, B. Turk, and A. L. Sanderson.

Orator of the Day—Mr. R. L. Brown, of Greenwood.

A. L. Sanderson was appointed, by the Chairman, to forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the editor of the PACIFIC APPEAL for publication.

Yours, with respect,

A. L. SANDERSON.

Notably, in attendance was the Coloma blacksmith Stephen Ball whose business at the time was next to Bekeart's gun shop, Rufus Burgess, and Jacob Johnson. Rufus would later replace Stephen Ball as the local agent for the *Pacific Appeal* and *The Elevator*, both period Black newspapers from San Francisco.

The first agent for the *Pacific Appeal* in Coloma was Isaac Morton who was soon replaced by the black abolitionist and barber, Joseph Smallwood. Smallwood also had replaced Lewis Dukehart who had been the Coloma agent for the *Mirror of the Times* the first Black or African American newspaper in San Francisco prior to his leaving for Georgetown, California.[9]

Jacob Johnson would in the next year donate his home and land for the Coloma AME church.

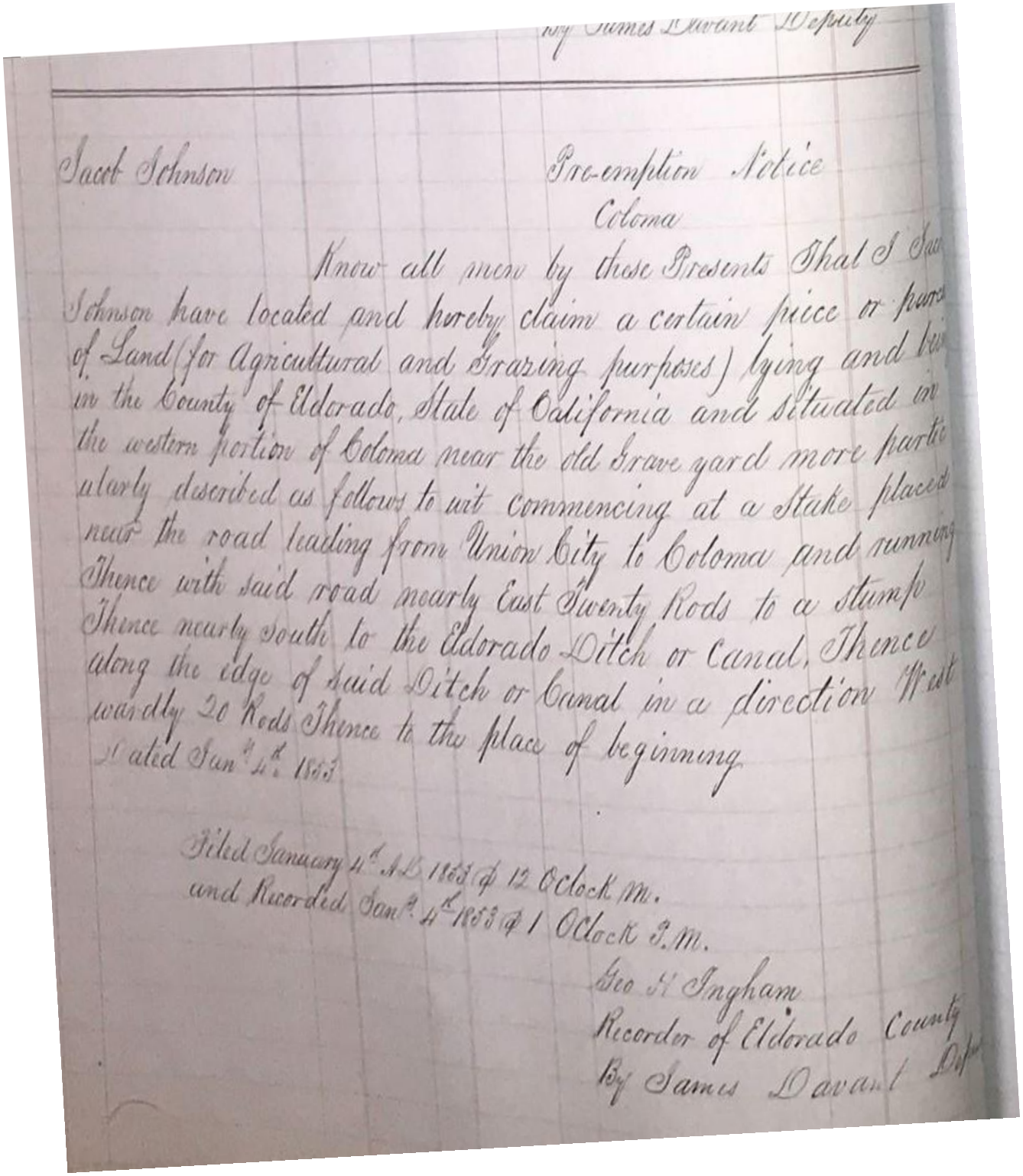
Donation of Property for the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

According to the 1860 Federal Census Jacob Johnson a Black man from Missouri living with three other Black people, Ann and Peter Gavish and Patrick Holland on property that he owned in Coloma.

Two years later Jacob Johnson would donate this property to the AME Church for the purpose of building a church. This property description will match Jacob Johnson's 1853 Pre-Emption of land that was 1.5 to 2 acres.

Jacob Johnson's Preemption of land was described as in the area between Uniontown Road and Lower Main Street (now called State Hwy. 49) and the El Dorado Ditch.

The following 1853 Preemption of property is in the same location as the future African Methodist Episcopal Church.



by James Davant Deputy

Jacob Johnson Pre-emption Notice
Coloma

Know all men by these Presents That I Jacob Johnson have located and hereby claim a certain piece or parcel of Land (for Agricultural and Grazing purposes) lying and being in the County of Eldorado, State of California and situated in the western portion of Coloma near the old Grave yard more particularly described as follows to wit commencing at a Stake placed near the road leading from Union City to Coloma and running Thence with said road nearly East Twenty Rods to a stump Thence nearly South to the Eldorado Ditch or Canal, Thence along the edge of said Ditch or Canal in a direction West wardly 20 Rods Thence to the place of beginning
Dated Jan^{y} 4th 1853

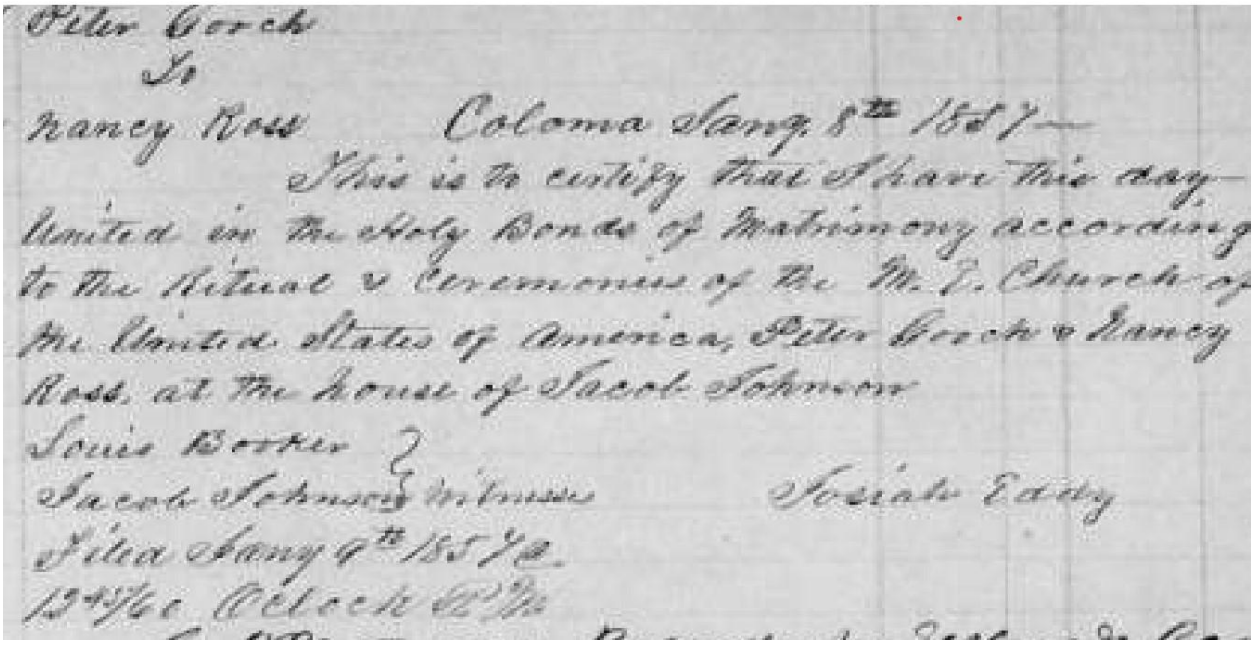
Filed January 4th A.D. 1853 @ 12 O'clock M.
and Recorded Jan^{y} 4th 1853 @ 1 O'clock P.M.

Geo H Ingham
Recorder of Eldorado County
By James Davant Dep^{y}

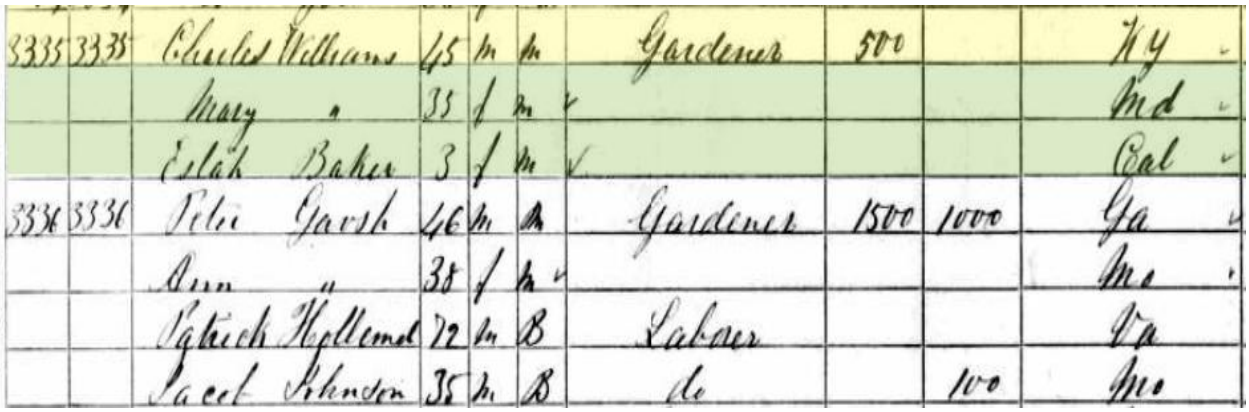
El Dorado County Recorder's Office, Book C, page 28 of Preemptions

On June 27, 1863, a Grant Deed from Jacob Johnson to the African M. E. Church Trustees was recorded with the El Dorado County Recorder.

The detailed description of the preemption of land provides enough detail to see that they are in the same location as that of the Jacob Johnson's donation of land to the African Methodist Church, excepting that the lot has been divided, with one for the Church to be 150' X 50' the adjacent plot being approximately one acre in size.
Even though Jacob Johnson was listed in the 1860 census as living on the property that he donated, there is no specific mention of a building standing on either lot that was donated. However, the marriage license of Nancy Ross to Peter Gooch shows them being married in Jacob Johnson's home giving proof of at least a home on the property that was donated to the African Methodist Episcopal Church.


Peter Gooch
To
Nancy Ross Coloma Sany 8th 1857—
This is to certify that I have this day
united in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony according
to the Ritual & Ceremonies of the M. E. Church of
the United States of America, Peter Gooch & Nancy
Ross, at the house of Jacob Johnson
Louis Barker
Jacob Johnson } Witness Josiah Eady
Filed Sany 9th 1857
12 o'clock M

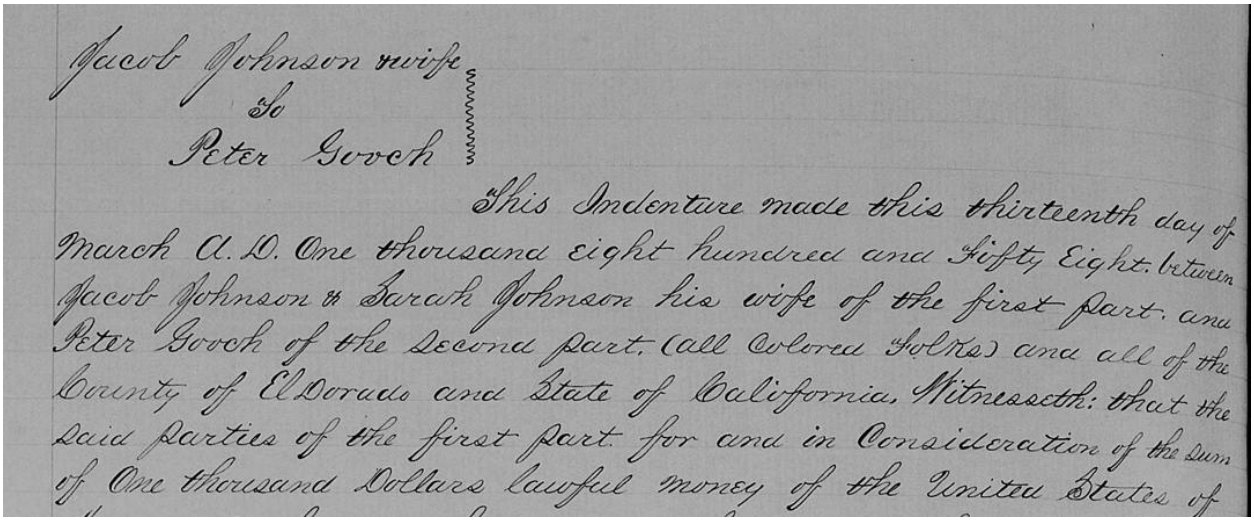
El Dorado County Recorder's office, 1857 Marriage Index



3335	3335	Charles Williams	45	m	Mu	Gardener	500		Ky
		Mary "	33	f	Mu				Md
		Eslah Baker	3	f	Mu				Cal
3336	3336	Peter Gooch	46	m	Mu	Gardener	1500	1000	Ga
		Ann "	38	f	Mu				Me
		Ephriah Hollemon	72	m	B	Laborer			Va
		Jacob Johnson	35	m	B	do		100	Geo

During the 1860 Federal Census, El Dorado County, Coloma Township lists Jacob Johnson living next to Charles and Mary Williams who would eventually sell their property to John Wilson, a prominent Black pioneer farmer. At the time of this census Jacob Johnson's property was a few houses down Lower Main Street from Nelson Bell.

This donation of his Preempted land was also the last property that Jacob Johnson owned in Coloma as he had previous sold his other parcels to the Gooch family in March of 1858.[10]


Jacob Johnson wife
To
Peter Gooch

This Indenture made this thirteenth day of March A. D. One thousand eight hundred and Fifty Eight. between Jacob Johnson & Sarah Johnson his wife of the first part. and Peter Gooch of the Second part. (all Colored Folks) and all of the County of El Dorado and State of California. Witnesseth: that the said parties of the first part. for and in Consideration of the Sum of One thousand Dollars lawful money of the United States of

1863 Deed of Jacob Johnson to the African Methodist Episcopal Church (transcribed).

Jacob Johnson

to

Trustees of the African Methodist Church

This indenture made this twenty seventh(27) day of June in the year of our lord one thousand eight-eight hundred and sixty three (1863) between Jacob Johnson of the Town of Coloma in the State of California of the one party and Cooper Smith, A Hamilton and J Johnson trustees in trust for the use and purpose hear and after mentioned of the Township of Coloma, State of California aforesaid of the other part, witnessed that the said Jacob Johnson for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar ……. To him in hand paid at and upon …. …. And delivery of these presents is hereby acknowledged hath given granted bargained, sold released confirmed and conveyed by these doth give grant bargain sell release shall confirm and convey onto them the said trustees and their successor trustees in trust for

use and purpose hereinafter mentioned and declared all the rights …. ……. property claims and demands whatsoever either in law or equity which the said Jacob Johnson hath into or upon all or singular a certain lot or piece of land situate lying and being in the Town of Coloma, State of California amended as follows beginning at a point on the El Dorado ditch on the southside of the place owned by J. Johnson. thence running in an easterly direction on said ditch one hundred and fifty (150') feet, thence in a northerly direction to the Coloma and Uniontown Road, thence in fifty (50) feet along said road, thence in a southernly direction to the place of the beginning corner. Leaving one acre of land more or less together with all and singular, the houses, woods, water ways, privilege, and appurtenances there to belonging or in use pertaining to have and to hold all and singular the above-described lot.

or piece of land situate lying and being as aforementioned together with all and singular the house, woods, waterways, and privileges there in belonging in or anywise appertaining to the said trustees and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall erect or cause to be built thereon a house of place of worship for the use of the members of the African Methodist-Episcopal Church in the United States of America according to the rules and discipline of said church which from time to time be adopted and agreed upon by the Ministers and preachers belonging to said church in their General Conferences in the United States and in further trust and confidence that they shall at all times forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers belonging to said church as from time to time be duly authorized by the general conference of the ministers and preachers of the said African Methodist Episcopal church of by its annual conference authorized by the said general conference to preach and expound Gods Holy word therein and in further trust and confidence that as often as any one or more of trustees hereinbefore mentioned shall die or cease to be a member or members of said church according to the rules and discipline ….. said them in such case it shall be the duty of the National ministers or preachers (authorized as aforesaid) who shall have the pastoral charge of the members of the said church to call a new meeting of the remaining trustees

as soon as conveniently maybe and when met the said minister or preacher shall proceed to nominate one of more person to fill the place or places of them whose office or offices has or have been vacated as aforementioned provided the person or persons so nominated shall have become a year member or members of a said church immediately preceding such nomination and be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and the said trustees so assembled shall proceed to elect and by a majority of votes appoint the person or persons appoint the person or persons so nominated to fill each vacancy or vacancies in order to keep up the members of trustees forever, and in case of an equal number of votes for and against the said nomination the stationed minister or preacher shall have the casting vote. Provided nevertheless that the said trustee or any of them or their successors have advanced or shall advance any sum or sums of money or are or shall be responsible for any sum or sums of money on account of said premises and they, the said trustees or their successors be obligated to pay the sums of money they or a majority of them shall be duly authorized to raise the said sum of money or sums of money for mortgage on the said premises or by selling the said premises after notice given to the Pastor or preacher that has oversight of the congregation attending divine service on said premises. If the money due be not-paid to the said trustees or their successors within one year after such notice given and if such sale take place the said trustees or their successors after paying the debt and other expenses which are due from money arising from such sale shall deposit the remainder of the money produced.

By the said sale in the hands of the Steward or Stewarts of the Society of the divine belonging to or attending divine service on said premises which surplus of such sale so deposited in the hands of the Stewart or Stewarts shall be at the disposal of next annual conference authorized as aforesaid which Annual conference shall dispose of the said money according to the best of their judgement for the use of said society. And the said Jacob Johnson doth by these …. Warrant and forever defend all and singular those above mentioned and described lot or piece of ground with the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto them the said trustees and their

successors chosen and appointed as aforesaid from the claims or claims of all persons whatever in testimony whereof the said Jacob Johnson his heirs and assigned from the claims or claims of all persons whatever. In testimony whereof the said Jacob Johnson has hereto his hand and seal to the day and year previously mentioned.

Jacob Johnson

His Mark X Sealed and delivered in the presence of us. Wm N. Smith Jacob Mitchell.[11]

The witnesses to the signing were William N. Smith who was the white Methodist Episcopal Church pastor for the Coloma circuit and Jacob Mitchell who was the supervising Elder for the African Methodist Church under T.M.D. Ward.[12]

Jacob and Sara Johnson left the county sometime before 1864.

Recorded during the Third Annual Convention of the African Methodist Episcopal Church held in San Francisco on the last week of October 1863. Bro. P Killingsworth reported his circuit including Placerville, Coloma, Diamond Springs, Mud Springs, Gold Hill, Georgetown, and Greenwood Valley hear the Gospel gladly. He reported that in Coloma a church had been organized and added to the AME body and the congregation has a neat and comfortable house of worship in Coloma free of debt. Also, during that meeting Minister John Jenifer was assigned to the Placerville Circuit of eight locations. The combined worth of the Placerville and Coloma churches was reported to be $1,600.00. In comparison Emmanuel Church was valued at $7,000.00 at the time of construction.[13]

All our churches are paid for.

On the 25th of March, 1862, we purchased a church in San Francisco, at a cost of $6000. Sixty days after the purchase, I was stricken down with the small pox. For weeks, I stood upon the point which divides time from eternity, and, had it not been for the interposition of *infinite* mercy and the effectual prayers of a Christian people, should have been buried amid the deep silence of the dead long ago.

I was disabled from travelling one entire year. However, we paid the $6000 on the property two weeks before I sailed for New York.

The distance between here and San Francisco, (by steamer) is 5800 miles.

On the 3d of September, 1863, we held a convention;—matters were adjusted; grievances redressed; and healing remedies applied where needed.

STATISTICS.

We have churches at the following places:

Church at	San Francisco	worth	$14,000
"	Sacramento	"	3,000
"	Stockton	"	3,500
"	Marysville	"	1,500
"	Grass Valley and Nevada	"	2,100
"	Virginia City, N. T	"	1,300
"	Oakland	"	1,400
"	Petulama	"	1,200
"	Placerville and Coloma	"	1,600

There are school-houses for the education of colored youth at the following points: San Francisco, Sacramento, Petaluma, Stockton, Marysville, San Jose.

The real estate owned by the colored population of the Pacific States and Territories, is estimated at two million dollars.

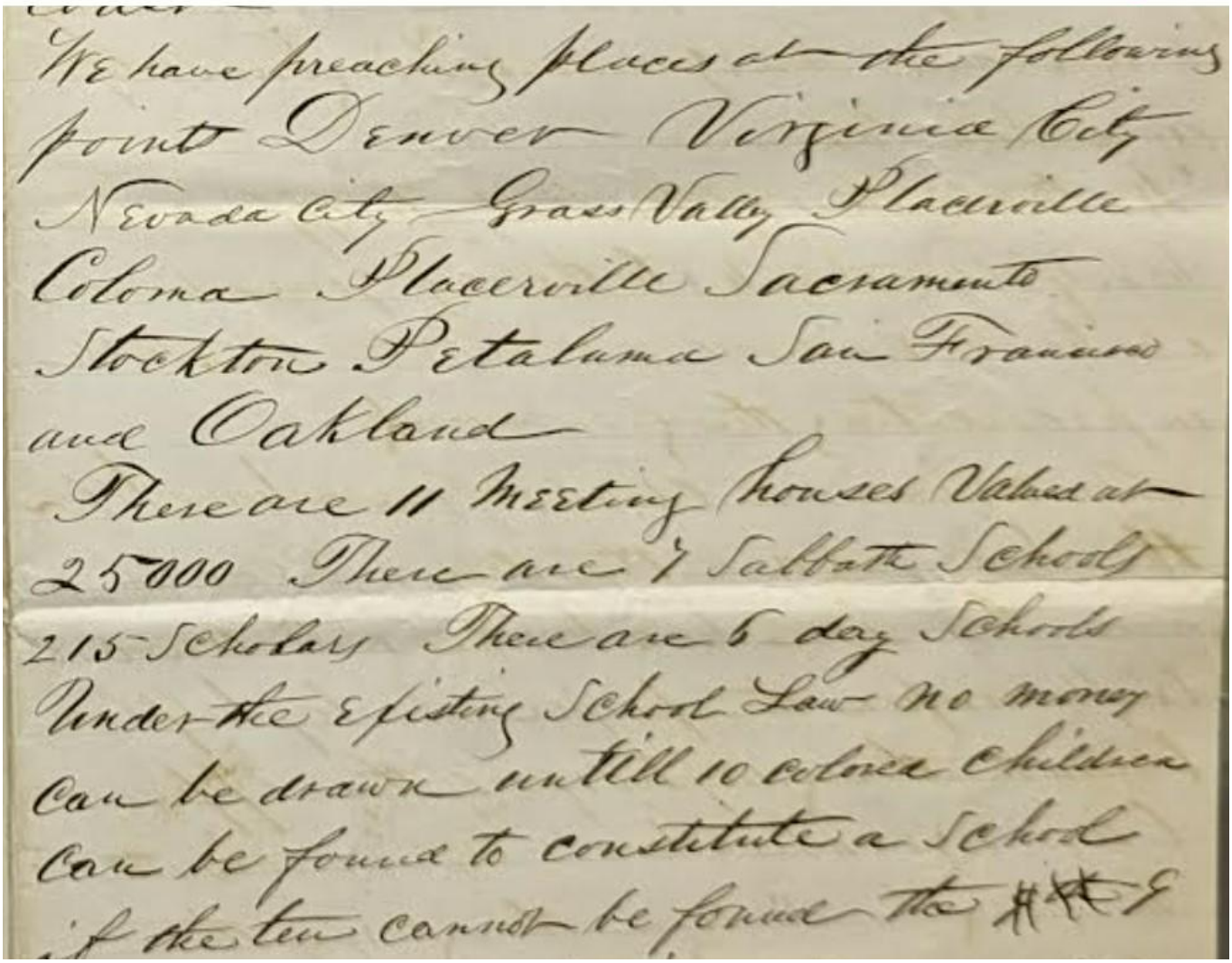
That region of country is celebrated for its rich agricultural districts, extensive vineyards, and exhaustless mines of gold, silver and copper.

Nearly one hundred millions of dollars have been exported within 14 years, and millions still remain.

For salubrity of climate, richness of soil, vastness of mineral wealth and kind-hearted people, it is not excelled by any land beneath the circuit of the sun.

Value of AME Churches in California in 1863

1863 September, African Methodist Episcopal church Elder T.M.D. Ward's report to Issac Owen at the White Methodist Episcopal Church conference as to the status of the AME Church Circuit on the West Coast:


We have preaching places at the following
points Denver Virginia City
Nevada city Grass Valley Placerville
Coloma Placerville Sacramento
Stockton Petaluma San Francisco
and Oakland
There are 11 Meeting Houses Valued at
25000 There are 7 Sabbath Schools
215 Scholars There are 6 day Schools
Under the existing School Law no money
can be drawn untill 10 colored Children
can be found to constitute a School
if the ten cannot be found the ***

Courtesy of Stephen Yale, Methodist Archives, Berkeley, CA[15]

Sometime between his arrival in California in 1863 and his appointment out of state, Elder Jacob Mitchell also visited the Placerville/Coloma District. By 1866, Elder Mitchel was recorded living in New Jersey.

While the Jacob Johnson deed to the Coloma AME church included two lots. These are not the two lots referenced by Bishop Campbell in his early 1865 letter to Brother Weaver. In that letter, Campbell says he "…went to Placerville where I found a Church and pastor. They have a

small house and two lots, upon one of which they will shortly move a large house…" The "two church lots" that Campbell mentions in his letter are clearly in the context of Placerville and not Coloma.

He also mentions that he preached to white brethren during these travels but did not mention the locations.

For the Christian Recorder.

A LETTER FROM REV. BISHOP CAMPBELL.

DEAR BROTHER WEAVER: - When I last wrote to you I was in Sacramento city, the capital of the State of *California*. I am now in Virginia City, called "the Silver City of the new State of Nevada." It is so called because it is situated in the midst of the largest silver mines in this country. This city is located at the foot of Mount Davidson, among the range of mountains which form a part of the Sierra Nevada, at the head of Carson Valley, twelve miles from the city of Carson, the capital of the State of Nevada. Mount Davidson is one of the highest mountains in the world. The top of it is almost perpetually covered with snow. Few seasons pass during which snow may not be found upon its summit. Crossing the Sierra Nevada at this season of the year is most difficult, and very dangerous, and at times impossible. Accidents and dreadful calamities are of common occurrence. Snow slides from the mountains frequently take place, covering many acres of ground, and destroying in their course both man and beast. One of these occurred a few days ago, which came near overtaking and burying alive the regular line stage, and all its passengers. The past winter in this section is said to have been unusually severe, though hard winters are common to the country. We have had snow upon snow, here a great deal and there a great deal, with rain, hail, ice and stormy winds.

The mountains are covered with snow in some places eight feet deep, and in others eleven, and even up to twenty feet, according to the reports of those who profess to have a knowledge of these things. For miles there is not a tree, not even a shrub to be seen upon the sides of the mountains; you can see nothing but the everlasting hills, lifting up their lofty peaks to the skies, covered with snow, as far as the eye can reach.

Such is a part of the scenery with which I am surrounded, while I am writing to you. A bird is never seen here at any season of the year, except it be a canary bird in a cage, or once in a great while, a poor little snow bird, alone upon the mountains.

I spent twelve days in Sacramento City, preached for them three times, lectured once, held a quarterly Conference with Elder Ward, or assisted him, held a love feast and a general class meeting, and had, altogether, good visit at that place, as, indeed, I have had at all the points which I have visited. They have had no pastor here since Elder Mitchell left them, in April, 1864. They are very anxious for one, and I hope the Annual Conference will be able to supply them.

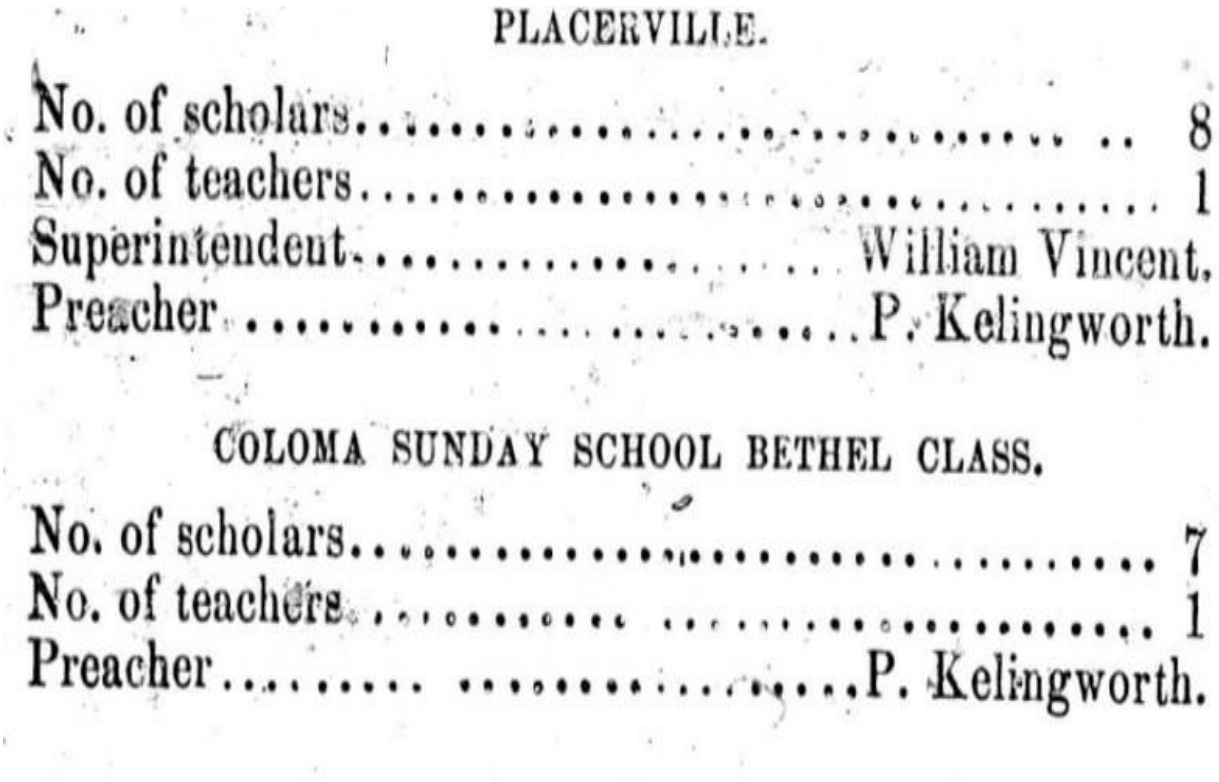
Friday, the 3d inst., I left them and went to Placerville, where I found a church and pastor.

They have a small house and two church lots, upon one of which they will shortly move; a large house, bought from the Presbyterians by a member of that church, and given by him to the members of the *A.M.E*. Church. This is a very good house.

I preached here three times, and delivered three lectures in one night, upon different subjects; visited *Coloma* during my stay in Placerville, preached a sermon and delivered a lecture on the same night, at two places. Very hard work this, my brother, but I have been compelled to do so, or fail to supply, in a great degree, the wants of the people.

I need not tell you, that in every city which I have visited, I have been kindly invited to fill the pulpits of our white brethren, and that I have filled at least one or more in every city that I have visited, and have now several more pressing invitations to comply with.

In 1864 the Coloma African Methodist Episcopal Church under Peter Killingsworth reports that its members total 6, Sunday School members 7 with others attending.



PLACERVILLE.

No. of scholars..... 8
No. of teachers..... 1
Superintendent..... William Vincent.
Preacher..... P. Kelingworth.

COLOMA SUNDAY SCHOOL BETHEL CLASS.

No. of scholars..... 7
No. of teachers..... 1
Preacher..... P. Kelingworth.

A. M. E. Bethel Church,		San Francisco	92
"	"	Sacramento	32
"	"	Stockton	29
"	"	Marysville	16
"	"	Virginia City, N. T.	22
"	"	Nevada	12
"	"	Grass Valley	14
"	"	Placerville	6
"	"	Coloma	6
"	"	Mud Spring	2
"	"	Diamond Spring	—
"	"	San Jose	3
"	"	Oakland	8
"	"	Victoria	25
			—267

DR. J. T. JENIFER.

Jenifer, Rev. John Thomas, the son of Catherine and John H. Jenifer, was born a slave at Upper Marlborough, Prince George County, Maryland, March 10, 1835. He went with his owners to Baltimore in 1853, and there worked as porter for a period of five years in the store of his young master, Truman Dorsey, who was in the dry goods business. For two years he then worked as receiving and shipping clerk in the dry goods house of J. Edward Bird & Bros., for the sum of $16 and board.

He was converted in Sharp Street M. E. Church, April 4, 1856, and in October 1859 he went to New Bedford, Mass., in search of freedom and education. He joined the A. M. E. Church, under Rev. Henry J. Young. He studied at Taylor's Commercial College, in New Bedford, with the aim of going into the dry goods business. But he was licensed by Rev. William W. Grimes, pastor of Kempton Street A. M. E. Church, on February 5, 1862. He set sail for California on July 21, 1862, and was appointed by Missionary Elder T. M. D. Ward to Sacramento City Station, October 8, 1862. In 1863 he was assigned to Placerville Circuit, Eldorado County, having six preaching points, including the town of Coloma, where the first nugget of gold was discovered in Suter's mill race in 1848. At Placerville, he purchased a lot for a parsonage, also a lot upon which he built a church at a cost of $2,500, leaving only an indebtedness of $80 when he left. During this time he taught the city school for colored children. Bishop J. P. Campbell organized the California Conference, April 10, 1865, at San Francisco, Rev. Jeremiah B. Sampson, secretary; J. T. Jenifer, assistant. At that session, on April 13, Rev. J. T. Jenifer was ordained deacon.

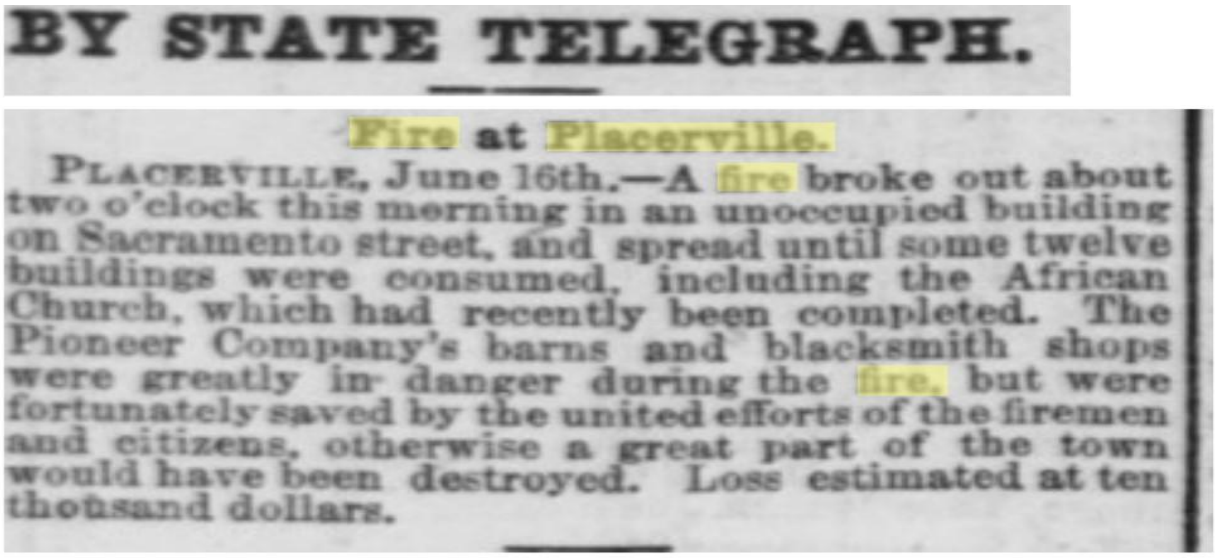
From this conference he was transferred to the Ohio

Although Rev. Jenifer was recorded as being assigned to the Placerville Circuit his presence was not as documented as well as Rev. Killingsworth.

In February 1865 Bishop J. P. Campbell preached a sermon in Placerville and Coloma.

During the April 1865 California Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church the Reverend John Thomas Jenifer was ordained and was reassigned to the Ohio Circuit.

In April of 1865, the St. Patrick Catholic Church in Placerville was burned at news of the fall of Richmond to Union forces, allegedly by members of the Placerville Know-Nothing Party and the Copperheads whose members were prominent in town. Later in June a fire destroyed a portion of Chinatown and the newly constructed AME church and vestry. Will Upton reports that in *The Churches of El Dorado County* the Black church was never rebuilt.[19]



BY STATE TELEGRAPH.

Fire at Placerville.

PLACERVILLE, June 16th.—A fire broke out about two o'clock this morning in an unoccupied building on Sacramento street, and spread until some twelve buildings were consumed, including the African Church, which had recently been completed. The Pioneer Company's barns and blacksmith shops were greatly in danger during the fire, but were fortunately saved by the united efforts of the firemen and citizens, otherwise a great part of the town would have been destroyed. Loss estimated at ten thousand dollars.

Alta Daily California Morning Edition, 17 June 1865 reports the fire that destroyed the African Methodist Church and rectory.

After the 1865 fire in Placerville, Peter Killingsworth is assigned to the Petaluma AME church where he served until late 1869. 1870 finds him assigned to the Oregon Circuit, later in the year he is back in Sacramento at St. Andrews Church.[20]

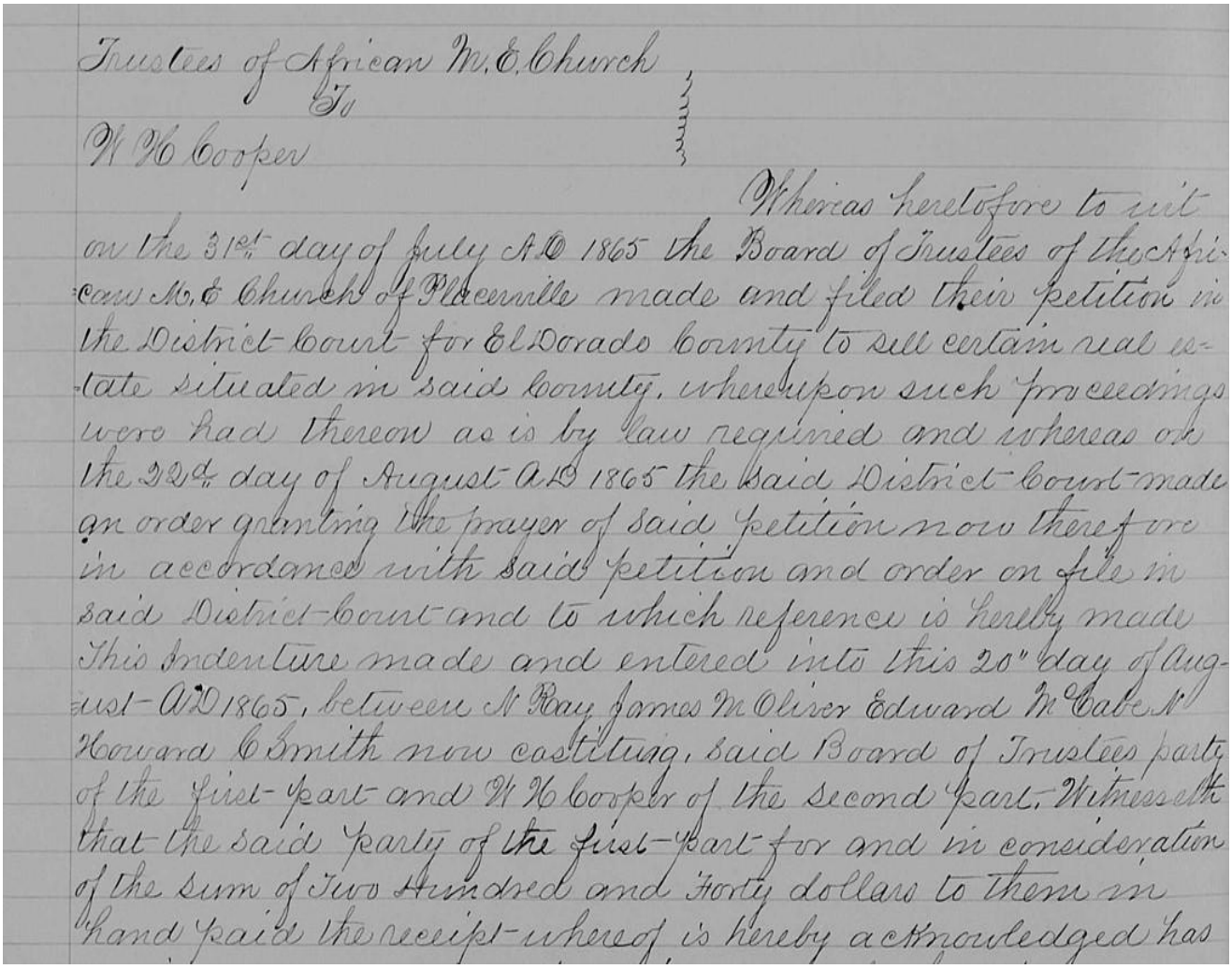
In February 1871 Rev. Killingsworth is again reassigned, this time to the Nevada County Circuit.

On September 27, 1872, Peter Killingsworth dies in Sacramento at age 82 having never returned to the El Dorado Circuit or Coloma.

The late summer of 1865 marks the beginning of the abandonment of the El Dorado Circuit of the AME Church with the loss of the church and parsonage in Placerville and the growth of Stockton and the Marysville/Yuba City circuits.

In August 1865, Trustees of Placerville African Methodist Church petition the Court to sell the fire damaged church property on Chapel Street in Placerville.

The subsequent sale of the Placerville AME church property leaves the El Dorado Circuit without a personage and main preaching location. The circuit was only sporadically supported after the fire destroyed the church and parsonage.



Trustees of African M. E. Church
To
W H Cooper

Whereas heretofore to wit on the 31st day of July A D 1865 the Board of Trustees of the African M. E. Church of Placerville made and filed their petition in the District Court for El Dorado County to sell certain real estate situated in said County, whereupon such proceedings were had thereon as is by law required and whereas on the 22d day of August A D 1865 the said District Court made an order granting the prayer of said petition now therefore in accordance with said petition and order on file in said District Court and to which reference is hereby made This Indenture made and entered into this 20th day of August A D 1865, between N Ray James M Oliver Edward McCabe N Howard C Smith now constituting said Board of Trustees party of the first part and W H Cooper of the second part. Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Forty dollars to them in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has

21

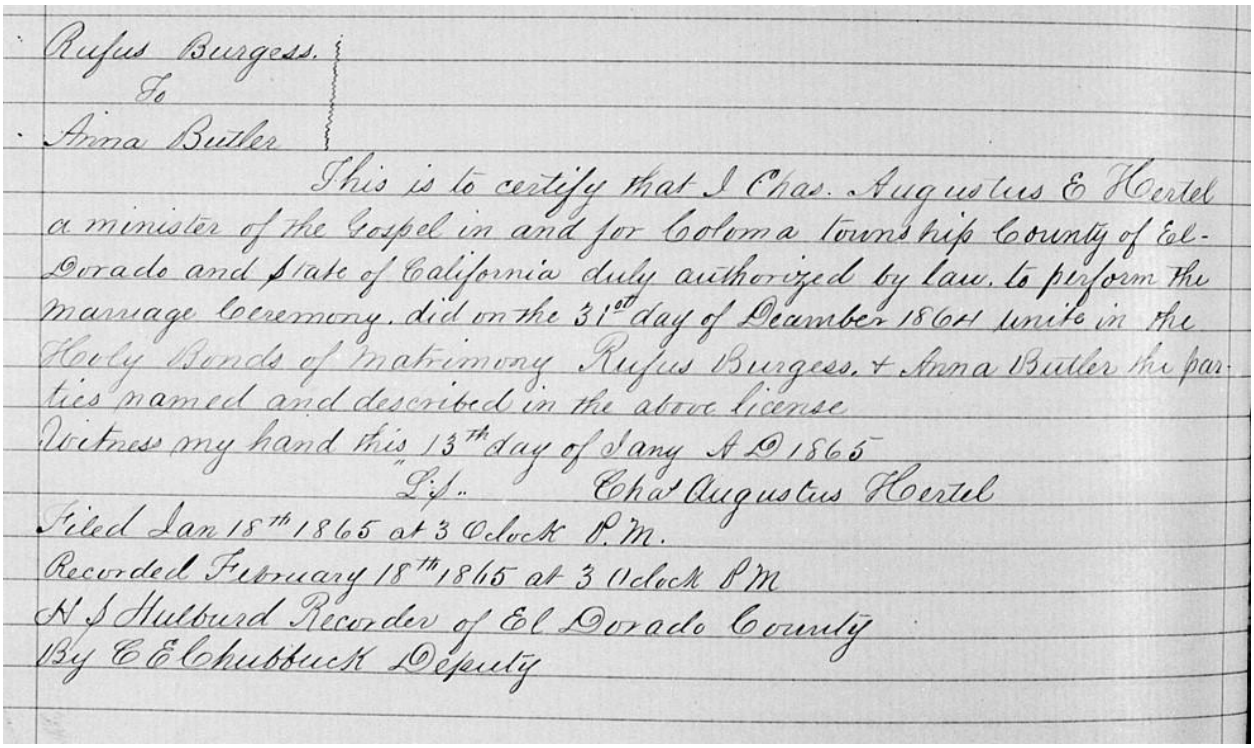
There are reports from earlier researchers that a few AME Church Camp meetings were held in Coloma with more than one hundred attendees. Period newspapers and AME documents only show Camp meetings being held at the AME Church grounds in Stockton and Yuba City.

The white Methodists did hold early camp meetings in Uniontown and the Episcopal Methodist church had camp meetings in Gold Hill. The Black community certainly may have attended, although those attending these meetings were not documented.

In early 1865 Elder William Offer replaces Elder Jenifer for the Placerville and Grass Valley Circuits that at the time included Yuba City and Marysville. No records of the circuit remain to show the frequency of visits to Coloma. By 1868 Elder Offer is listed as living in Marysville.

Marriages, funerals, and baptisms are still being performed by the White Methodist Episcopal Church pastors in the Placerville or Georgetown Circuit which included Coloma.

Example of Black residents Rufus Burgess and Anna Butler's marriage performed by a white minister from the Methodist Episcopal church in Coloma.

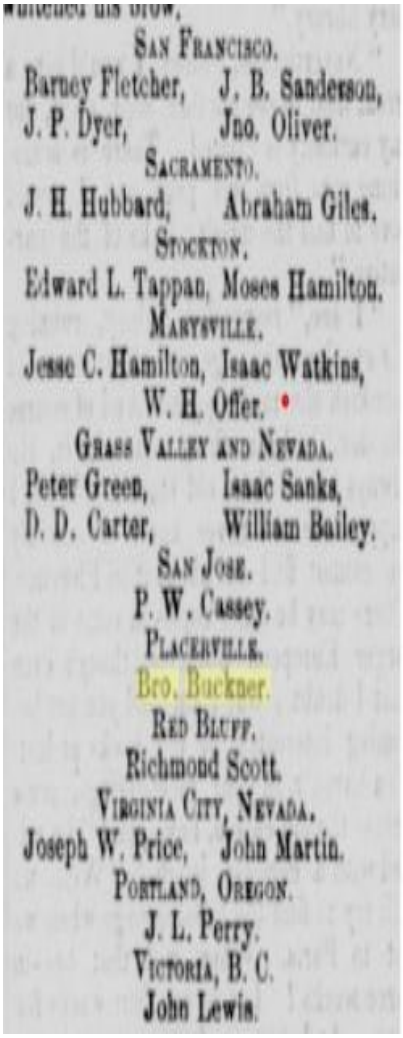


Rufus Burgess.
To
Anna Butler

This is to certify that I Chas. Augustus E Hertel a minister of the Gospel in and for Coloma township County of El-Dorado and State of California duly authorized by law to perform the marriage ceremony. did on the 31st day of Deamber 1864 unite in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony Rufus Burgess. & Anna Butler the parties named and described in the above license
Witness my hand this 13th day of Jany A D 1865
L.S. Chas Augustus Hertel
Filed Jan 18th 1865 at 3 Oclock P.M.
Recorded February 18th 1865 at 3 Oclock P M
H S Hulburd Recorder of El Dorado County
By E E Chubbuck Deputy

El Dorado County Recorder, 1865 Marriage Index

1868-70 Brother Buckner (a lay person, unable to perform services) is the only person listed for the AME Placerville Circuit that included Coloma. John Buckner was last recorded as living in Mud Springs (modern day El Dorado).



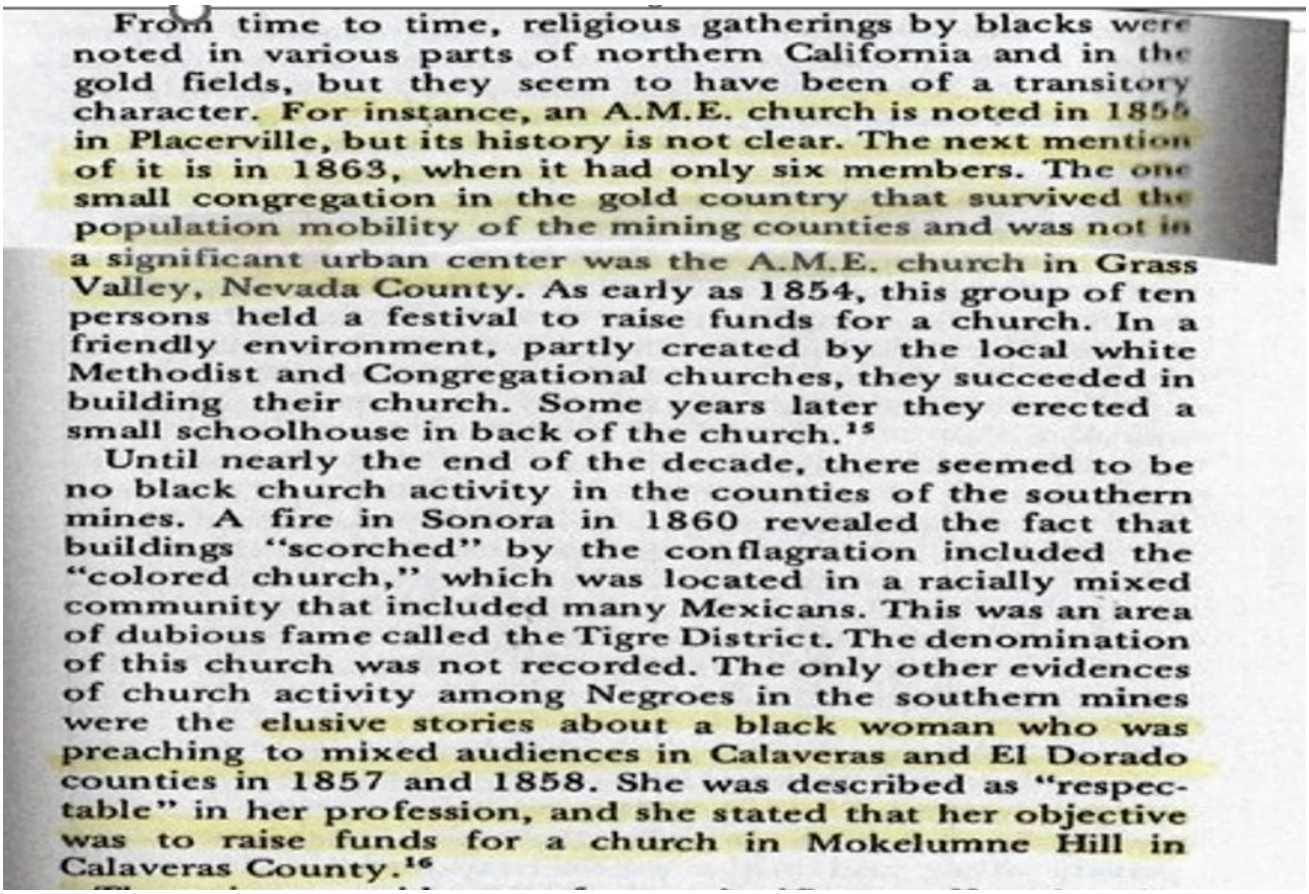
San Francisco.
Barney Fletcher, J. B. Sanderson,
J. P. Dyer, Jno. Oliver.
Sacramento.
J. H. Hubbard, Abraham Giles.
Stockton.
Edward L. Tappan, Moses Hamilton.
Marysville.
Jesse C. Hamilton, Isaac Watkins,
W. H. Offer.
Grass Valley and Nevada.
Peter Green, Isaac Sanks,
D. D. Carter, William Bailey.
San Jose.
P. W. Cassey.
Placerville.
Bro. Buckner.
Red Bluff.
Richmond Scott.
Virginia City, Nevada.
Joseph W. Price, John Martin.
Portland, Oregon.
J. L. Perry.
Victoria, B. C.
John Lewis.

22

After 1868 no African Methodist Episcopal records have been located showing permanently assigned Circuit Ministers for the Placerville / Coloma circuit or for any of the other surrounding communities in El Dorado County.

By 1870 Elder William Offer was living and preaching in San Francisco.

Rudolph M Lapp reports the following in his 1977 book *Blacks in Gold Rush California*. While his research does not specifically address the AME Church in Coloma, it gives a broader view of the AME church in the gold fields.



From time to time, religious gatherings by blacks were noted in various parts of northern California and in the gold fields, but they seem to have been of a transitory character. For instance, an A.M.E. church is noted in 1855 in Placerville, but its history is not clear. The next mention of it is in 1863, when it had only six members. The one small congregation in the gold country that survived the population mobility of the mining counties and was not in a significant urban center was the A.M.E. church in Grass Valley, Nevada County. As early as 1854, this group of ten persons held a festival to raise funds for a church. In a friendly environment, partly created by the local white Methodist and Congregational churches, they succeeded in building their church. Some years later they erected a small schoolhouse in back of the church.[15]

Until nearly the end of the decade, there seemed to be no black church activity in the counties of the southern mines. A fire in Sonora in 1860 revealed the fact that buildings "scorched" by the conflagration included the "colored church," which was located in a racially mixed community that included many Mexicans. This was an area of dubious fame called the Tigre District. The denomination of this church was not recorded. The only other evidences of church activity among Negroes in the southern mines were the elusive stories about a black woman who was preaching to mixed audiences in Calaveras and El Dorado counties in 1857 and 1858. She was described as "respectable" in her profession, and she stated that her objective was to raise funds for a church in Mokelumne Hill in Calaveras County.[16]

May 1868, the Reverend TMD Ward is appointed Bishop for the West Coast of the AME Church. His appointment to Bishop allowed marriages and funerals to be administered by AME Elders. Bishop Ward stayed in

California until 1872 when he returned permanently to Alabama and other Southern Districts.

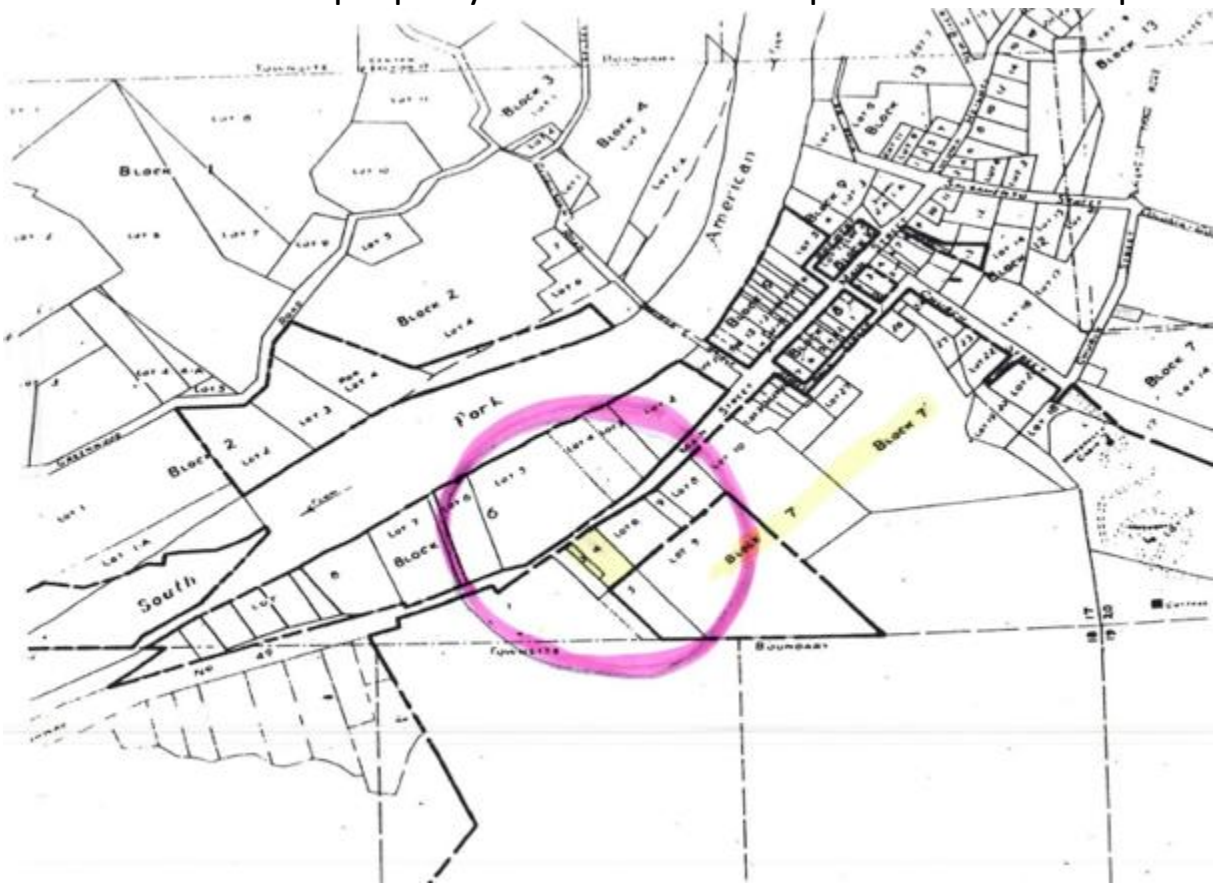
Ward, Thomas M. D., tenth bishop of the A. M. E. Church, was born in Hanover, Pa., September 28, 1823. He was converted in 1838 at Philadelphia and joined the A. M. E. Church; was licensed to preach in 1843 at Harrisburg, Pa., by Rev. Levin Lee, and in 1846 was admitted to the New England conference; was ordained deacon in 1847, and elder in 1849. After being ordained elder he was appointed missionary for

BISHOP T. M. D. WARD.

the Pacific coast, where he remained several years, organizing churches in that section, then but sparsely populated. In 1868 he was elected bishop, ordained Lexington, Va., and the rural schools; was licensed to May 25, 1868, and returned as bishop to the Pacific coast, where he remained four years. He was afterwards assigned to Alabama, Florida and Mississippi and other districts in the South, where he did much to build up the church, and distinguished himself as a pulpit orator of the first class. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Wilberforce University. He died June 10, 1894, and is buried in Washington, D. C.

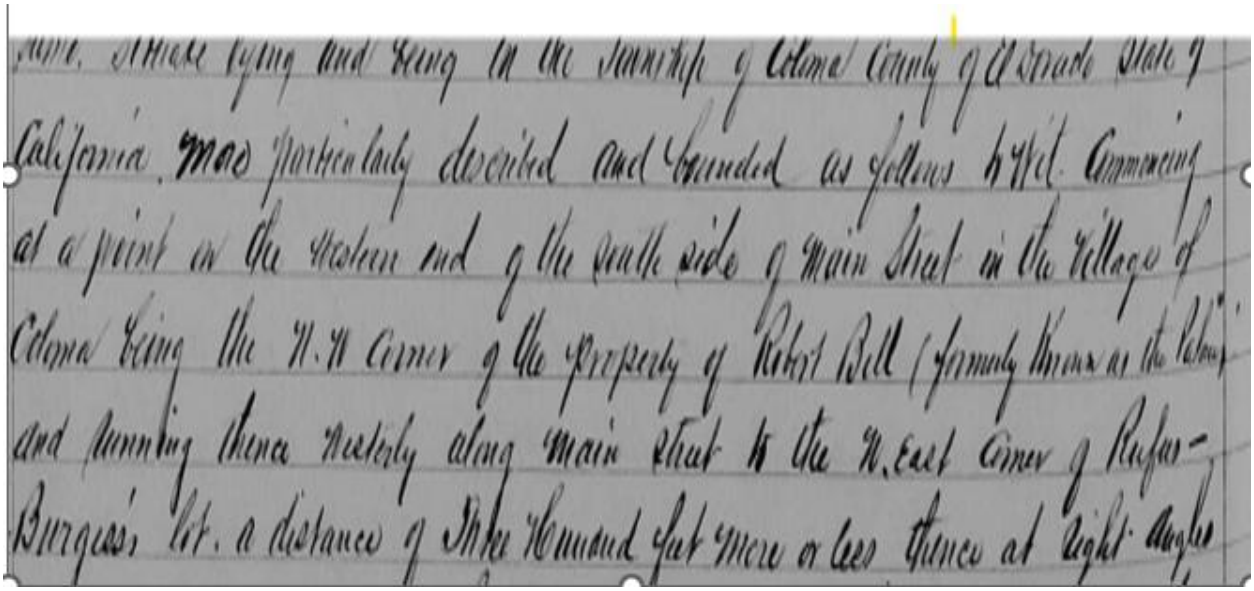
In 1873, with the Town of Coloma now surveyed by the County of El Dorado, the AME Church is occupying Lot 3, Block 7, .11 acres and the adjoining Lot 4, Block 7, .63 acres being occupied by another. This survey matching the 1853 Jacob Johnson Preemption description of land and boundaries that Jacob Johnson deeded to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1863.

Jacob Johnson's deeded property shown as drawn upon a modern map.



"A lane between the Peter Gooch and Burgess lots – they quarreled over the lane – the land led to the colored church."
Cecelia Papini's notes on Coloma. California State Parks

Sometime between the 1863 Jacob Johnson donation to the AME Church and 1869, Rufus Burgess was shown occupying the lot that was a major part of the AME Church property (Lot 4, Block 7). This location was referenced in November 1869 deed for Lot 6, Block 7 from C.H and Mary Williams to John Wilson.



26

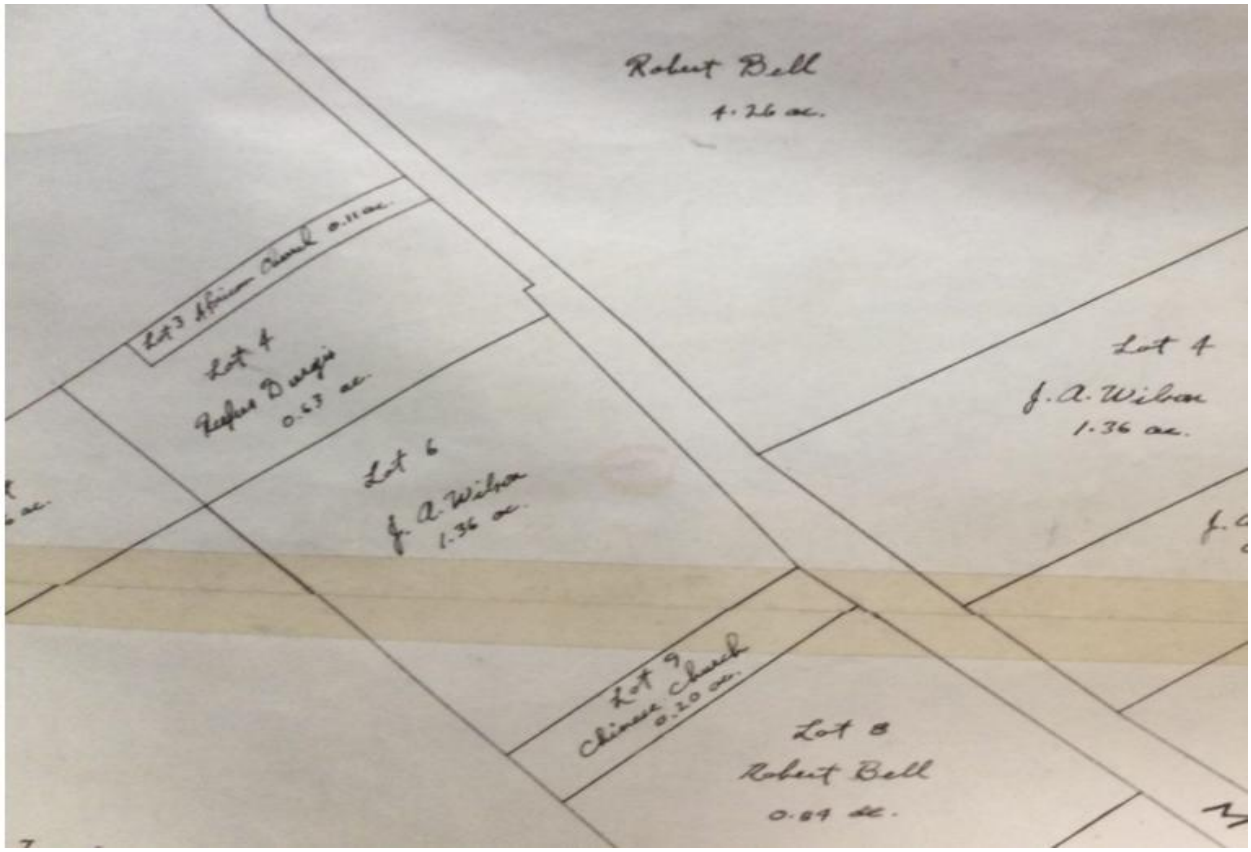
The William lot is Lot 6, just to the right of the AME Church Lots 3&4 of Block 7.

Mention should be made that prior to 1866 the Black children of Coloma were assumed to be attending a monthly or bi-weekly Sunday school at the AME church.

Regular school in Coloma for Black children was never mentioned in any of the AME Church correspondence or located records.

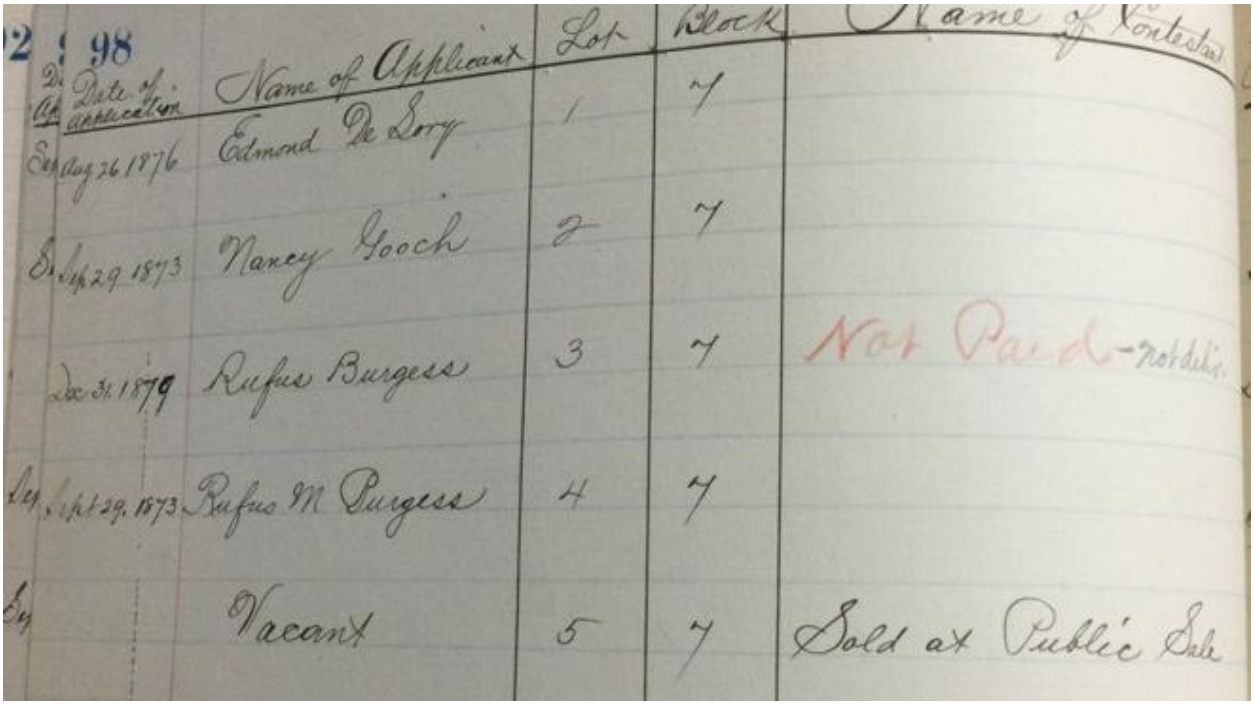
Records found for the Coloma public school attendance are incomplete and inconclusive. However, the 1870 census shows school age Black children at the public school in Coloma and as of 1875 El Dorado County reports that “all Colored children of the County are attending public school”.[27]

The Bishop George A. Miller relates in his book “Growing Up” that the Black population attend his father’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Coloma during his time as pastor from 1873 to 1875 that met in the Emmanuel Church.[28]



El Dorado County Surveyor’s map of 1873, courtesy of Marshal Gold Discovery State Historical Park.

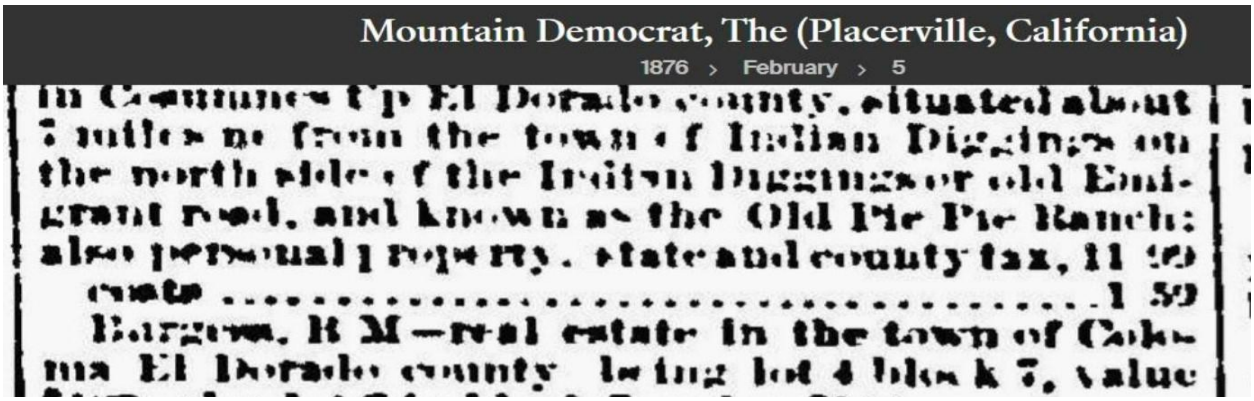
Although Rufus Burgess is shown living on parcel, lot 4, next to the African Methodist Episcopal Church during the May 1873 El Dorado County land survey, Rufus did not receive the title for lot 4, block 7 until 1879. [29]

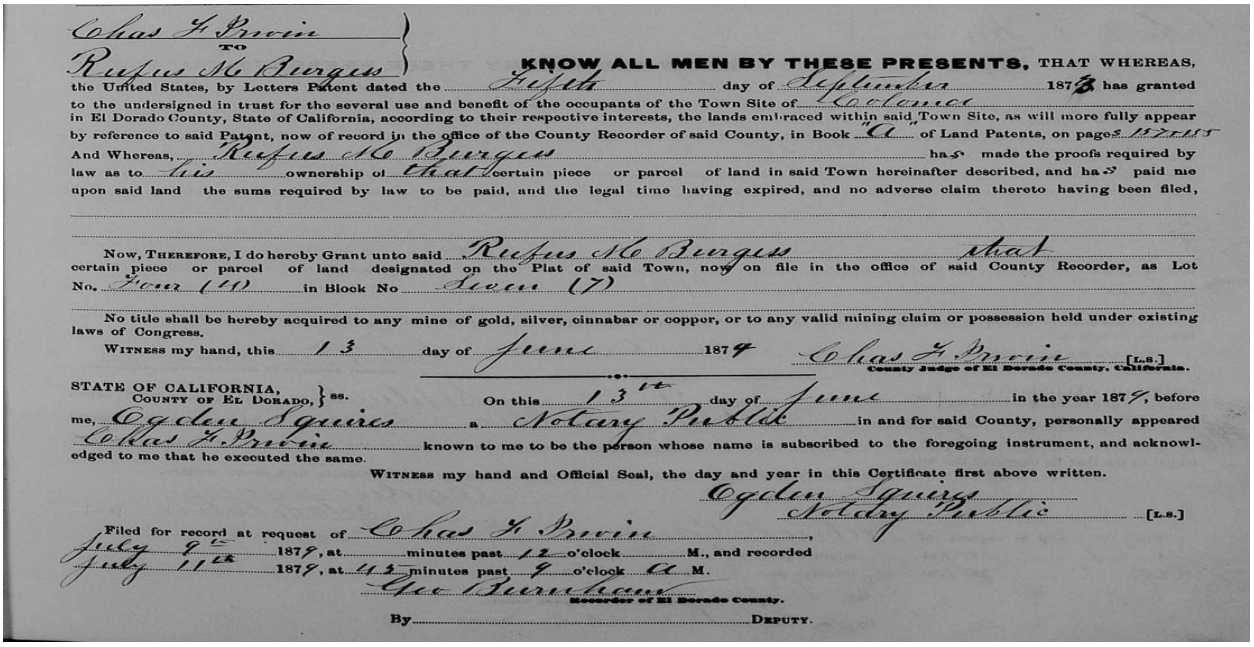


Date of Application	Name of Applicant	Lot	Block	Name of Contestant
May 26 1876	Edmond De Lory	1	7	
Sept 29 1873	Nancy Gooch	2	7	
Dec 31 1879	Rufus Burgess	3	7	Not Paid - Not duly.
Sept 29. 1873	Rufus M Burgess	4	7	
	Vacant	5	7	Sold at Public Sale

30

The following delinquent tax list shows R. M. Burgess in arrears for taxes on Lot 4, Block 7 in February 1876, again showing his occupancy of a portion of African Methodist church property prior to having a recorded title for this lot.




Chas F Bruin
TO
Rufus M Burgess

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT WHEREAS, the United States, by Letters Patent dated the Fifth day of September 1873 has granted to the undersigned in trust for the several use and benefit of the occupants of the Town Site of Coloma in El Dorado County, State of California, according to their respective interests, the lands embraced within said Town Site, as will more fully appear by reference to said Patent, now of record in the office of the County Recorder of said County, in Book "A" of Land Patents, on page 157 and 5

And Whereas, Rufus M Burgess has made the proofs required by law as to his ownership of that certain piece or parcel of land in said Town hereinafter described, and has paid me upon said land the sums required by law to be paid, and the legal time having expired, and no adverse claim thereto having been filed,

Now, THEREFORE, I do hereby Grant unto said Rufus M Burgess that certain piece or parcel of land designated on the Plat of said Town, now on file in the office of said County Recorder, as Lot No. Four (4) in Block No Seven (7)

No title shall be hereby acquired to any mine of gold, silver, cinnabar or copper, or to any valid mining claim or possession held under existing laws of Congress.

WITNESS my hand, this 13 day of June 1879 Chas F Bruin [L.S.]
County Judge of El Dorado County, California.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO, } ss.

On this 13th day of June in the year 1879, before me, Ogden Squires a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared Chas F Bruin known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

WITNESS my hand and Official Seal, the day and year in this Certificate first above written.

Ogden Squires
Notary Public [L.S.]

Filed for record at request of Chas F Bruin,
July 9th 1879, at minutes past 12 o'clock M., and recorded
July 11th 1879, at 45 minutes past 9 o'clock A M.

Geo Burnham
Recorder of El Dorado County.

By DEPUTY.

31

Rufus Burgess received the title to Lot 4, Block 7, Coloma Townsite in June 1879.

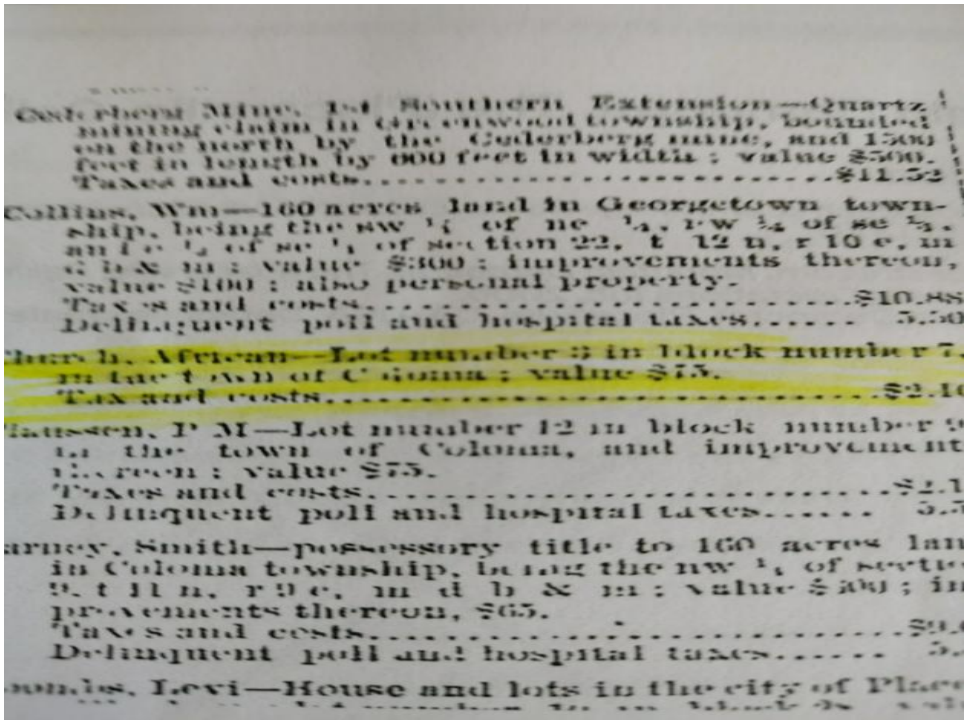
As the decline in mining occurred, El Dorado County experienced a dramatic loss of population. Between the years 1860 and 1870 the population of El Dorado County declined from 20,562 residents to 10,309.

As the miners and the businesses that supplied them moved on to more profitable diggings there were many defaults and the abandonment of properties. Assessor's Lien sales were so frequent that

many appear to have never been recorded with the County Recorder/Clerks office by the purchaser.

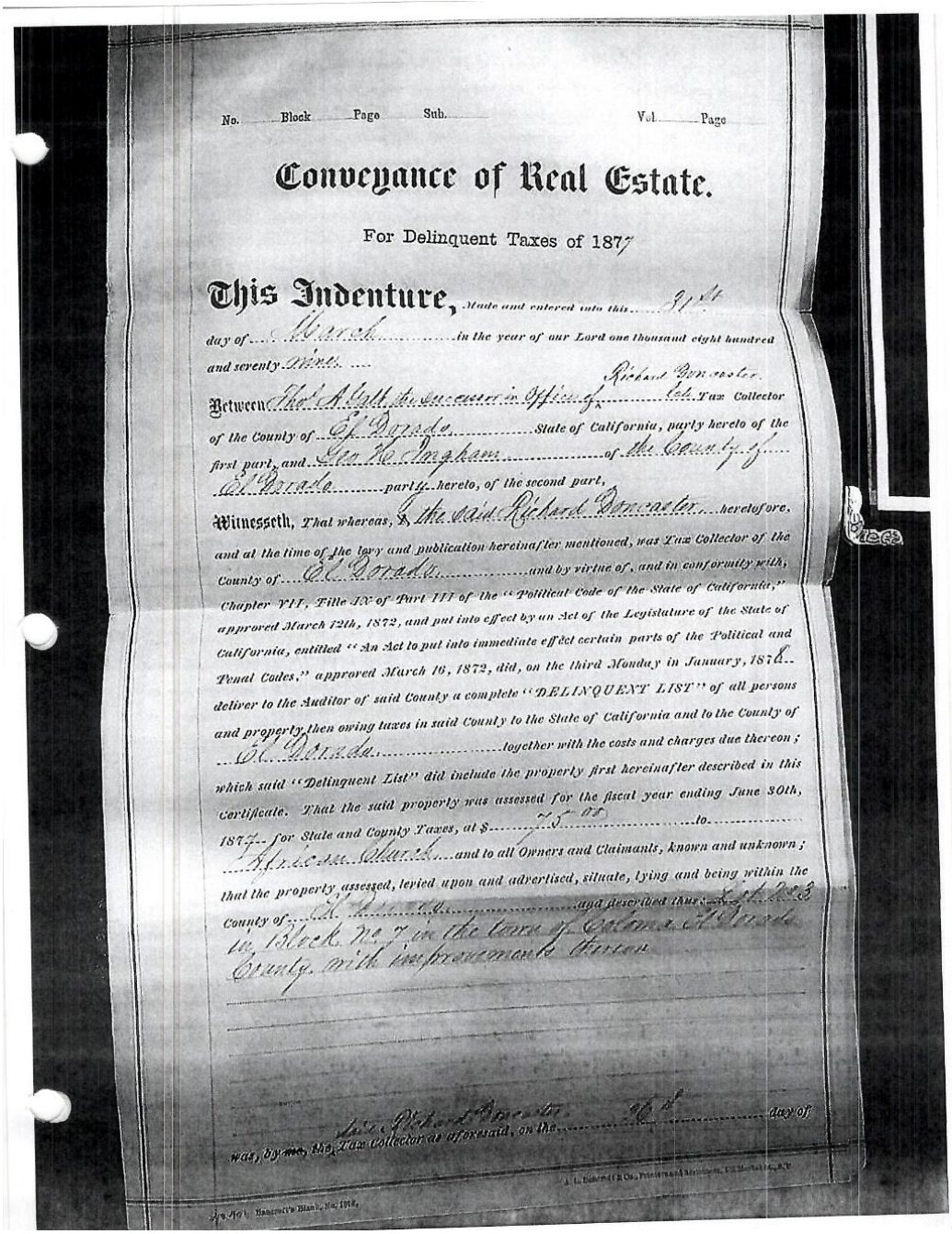
The original Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal church had moved on and the unlike the Placerville AME church this property was not disposed of as spelled out in the original 1863 deed from Jacob Johnson with the proceeds of the sale to be deposited with the African Methodist Episcopal churches California Conference. Instead, the lots were sold for past due taxes.

The *Mountain Democrat*, in its February 15, 1879, edition, lists properties being in arrears for taxes and scheduled for a lien sale, among those listed is the lot and building belonging to the AME Church that are to be seized and sold for one years back taxes.



The El Dorado County Tax Assessor lists the African Church property on the Delinquent Tax List of properties to be sold at auction.

On March 26th, 1879. George Ingham purchases the African Methodist Episcopal Church lot from the County at a tax lien sale.



No. Block Page Sub. Vol. Page

Conveyance of Real Estate.

For Delinquent Taxes of 1877

This Indenture, Made and entered into this 9th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy Nine

Between Richard Doncaster Late Tax Collector of the County of El Dorado State of California, party hereto of the first part, and Geo W Ingham of the County of El Dorado party hereto, of the second part,

Witnesseth, That whereas, I the said Richard Doncaster heretofore, and at the time of the levy and publication hereinafter mentioned, was Tax Collector of the County of El Dorado and by virtue of, and in conformity with, Chapter VII, Title IX of Part III of the "Political Code of the State of California," approved March 12th, 1872, and put into effect by an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled "An Act to put into immediate effect certain parts of the Political and Penal Codes," approved March 16, 1872, did, on the third Monday in January, 1878 deliver to the Auditor of said County a complete "DELINQUENT LIST" of all persons and property then owing taxes in said County to the State of California and to the County of El Dorado together with the costs and charges due thereon; which said "Delinquent List" did include the property first hereinafter described in this Certificate. That the said property was assessed for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1877 for State and County Taxes, at $ 75 00 to African Church and to all Owners and Claimants, known and unknown; that the property assessed, levied upon and advertised, situate, lying and being within the County of El Dorado and described thus: Lot 3 in Block No 7 in the town of Coloma El Dorado County with improvements thereon

was, by me, the Tax Collector aforesaid, on the 9th day of

Geo. Ingham

George Ingham purchase of Lot 3 Block 7, African Church

Thos A. Hall Tax Collector. To Geo. H Ingham. | Conveyance of Real Estate for Delinquent Taxes of 1877

This Indenture, made and entered into this 31st day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine. Between Thos A. Hall the Successor in Office of Richard Doncaster late Tax Collector of the County of Eldorado State of California party hereto of the first part, and Geo. H Ingham of the County of Eldorado party hereto of the second part. Witnesseth. That, whereas the said Richard Doncaster heretofore and at the time of the levy and publication hereinafter mentioned, was Tax Collector of the County of Eldorado, and by virtue of, and in conformity with Chapter VII. Title IX of Part. III of the Political Code of the State of California "approved March 12th 1872. and put into effect by an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled. "An Act to put into immediate effect certain parts of the Political and Penal Codes" approved March 16. 1872. did on the third Monday in January. 1878 deliver to the auditor of said County a complete "Delinquent List" of all persons and property then owing taxes in said County to the State of California and to the County of Eldorado together with the costs and charges due thereon: which said "Delinquent List" did include

Collector, as aforesaid, may, or can lawfully sell and convey the same; Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, of the said african church and of all rights and claimants thereof, known and unknown, in or to the said last above described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, which he or they, or either of them, had or possessed on the day of said Levy or assessment. To have and to hold, all and singular the hereinbefore and last mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances thereof, unto Geo. H. Ingham the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, in the County aforesaid, the day and year first hereinbefore written.

Thos A. Galt [seal]

Tax Collector of the County of Eldorado

State of California }
County of Eldorado } ss

On this Seventh day of April AD. one thousand eight hundred and seventy nine before me George Burnham County Clerk in and for said County, personally appeared, Thomas A. Galt, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing Instrument, as Tax Collector of said County, and he duly acknowledged to me that as such Tax Collector and the successor in office of Richard Dorncaster, late Tax Collector of said County he executed the same. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed my Official Seal, the day and year last above written. [seal]

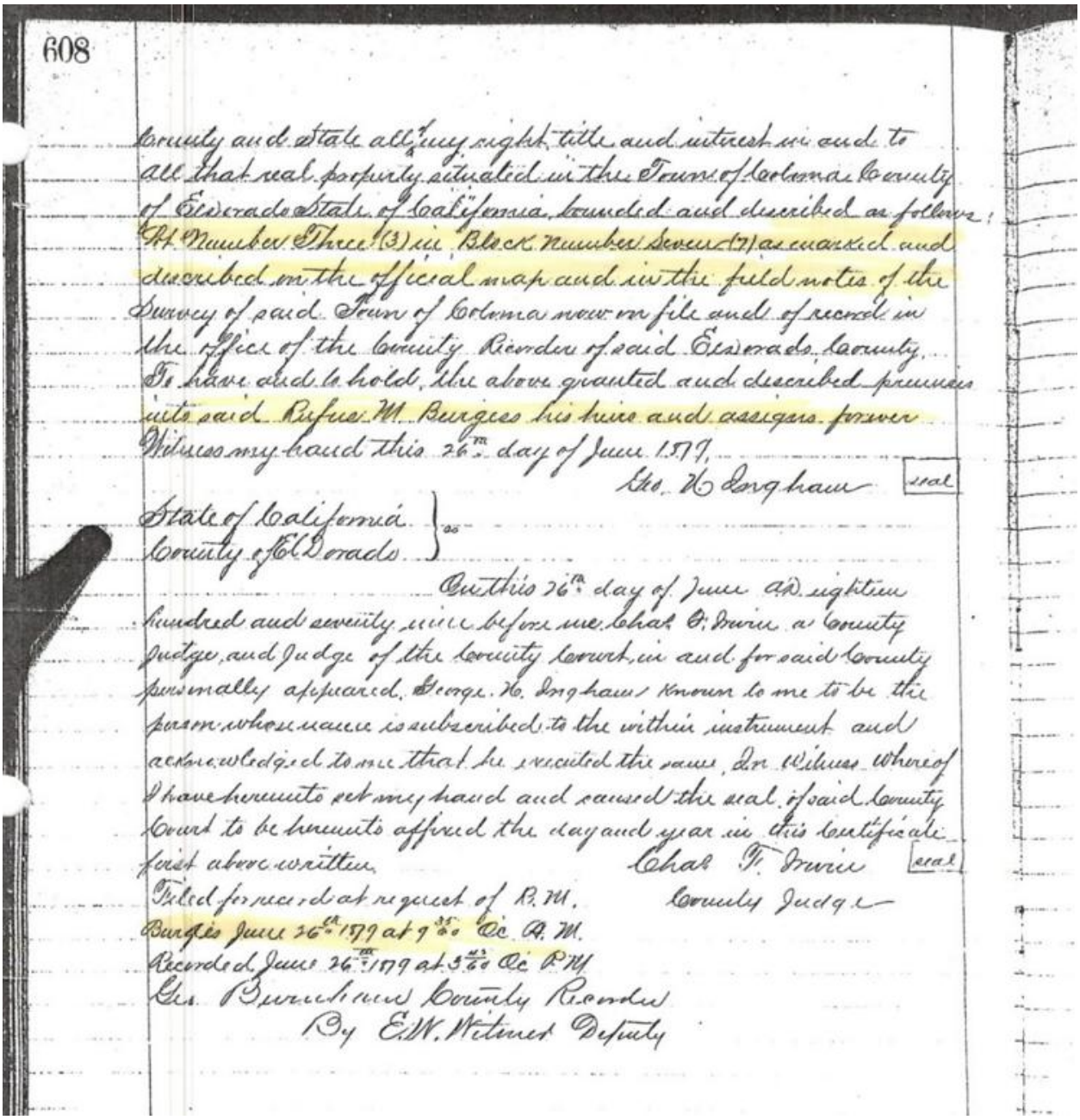
Geo Burnham
Co Clerk

Filed for record at request of R.M. Burgess June 26th 1879 at 9 30/60 AM
Recorded June 26th 1879 at 2 40/60 PM
Geo Burnham Recorder of El Dorado County
By E.W. Wilmer Deputy

Geo. H. Ingham
To
Rufus M. Burgess

I, Geo. H. Ingham of the County of Eldorado, State of California, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars Do hereby grant to Rufus M. Burgess of said

Sale of Former African Methodist Episcopal church lot to Rufus Burgess by George Ingham June 1879.



608

County and State all my right title and interest in and to all that real property situated in the Town of Coloma County of Eldorado State of California bounded and described as follows: Lot Number Three (3) in Block Number Seven (7) as marked and described on the official map and in the field notes of the Survey of said Town of Coloma now on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder of said Eldorado County. To have and to hold the above granted and described premises unto said Rufus M. Burgess his heirs and assigns forever. Witness my hand this 26th day of June 1879.

Geo. N Ingham [seal]

State of California } ss
County of Eldorado }

On this 26th day of June A.D. eighteen hundred and seventy nine before me Chas T. Irwin a County Judge and Judge of the County Court in and for said County personally appeared George N. Ingham known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of said County Court to be hereunto affixed the day and year in this certificate first above written.

Chas T. Irwin [seal]
County Judge

Filed for record at request of R. M. Burgess June 26th 1879 at 9 35/60 A.M.

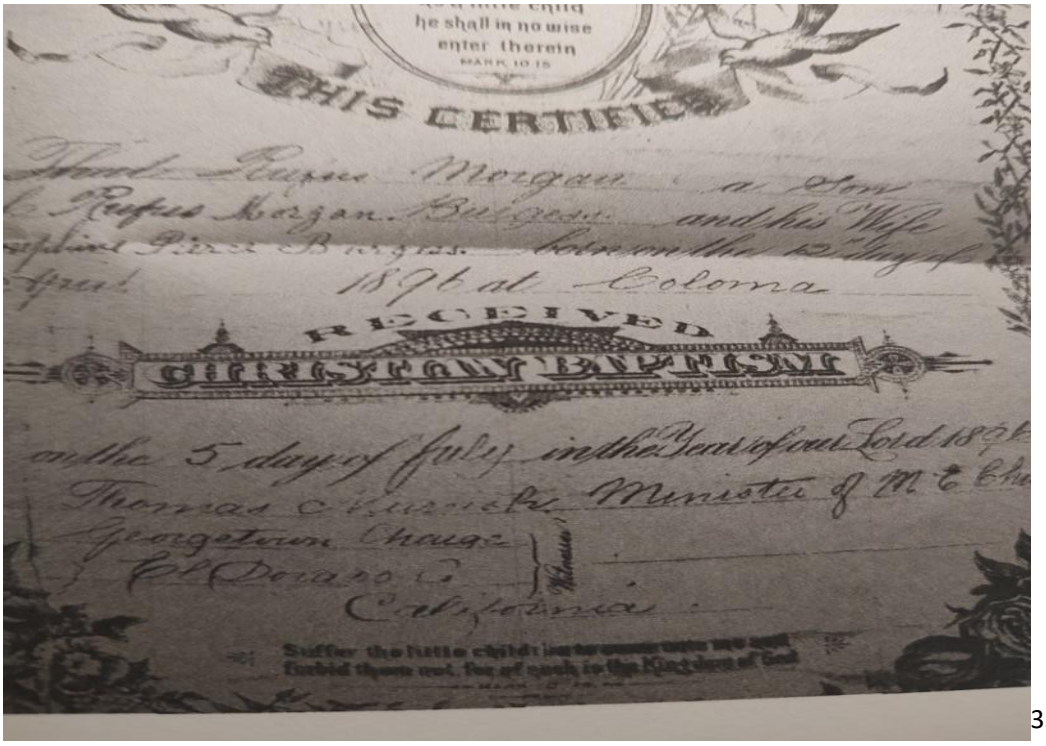
Recorded June 26th 1879 at 3 45/60 P.M.

Geo. Burnham County Recorder
By E.W. Witmer Deputy

32

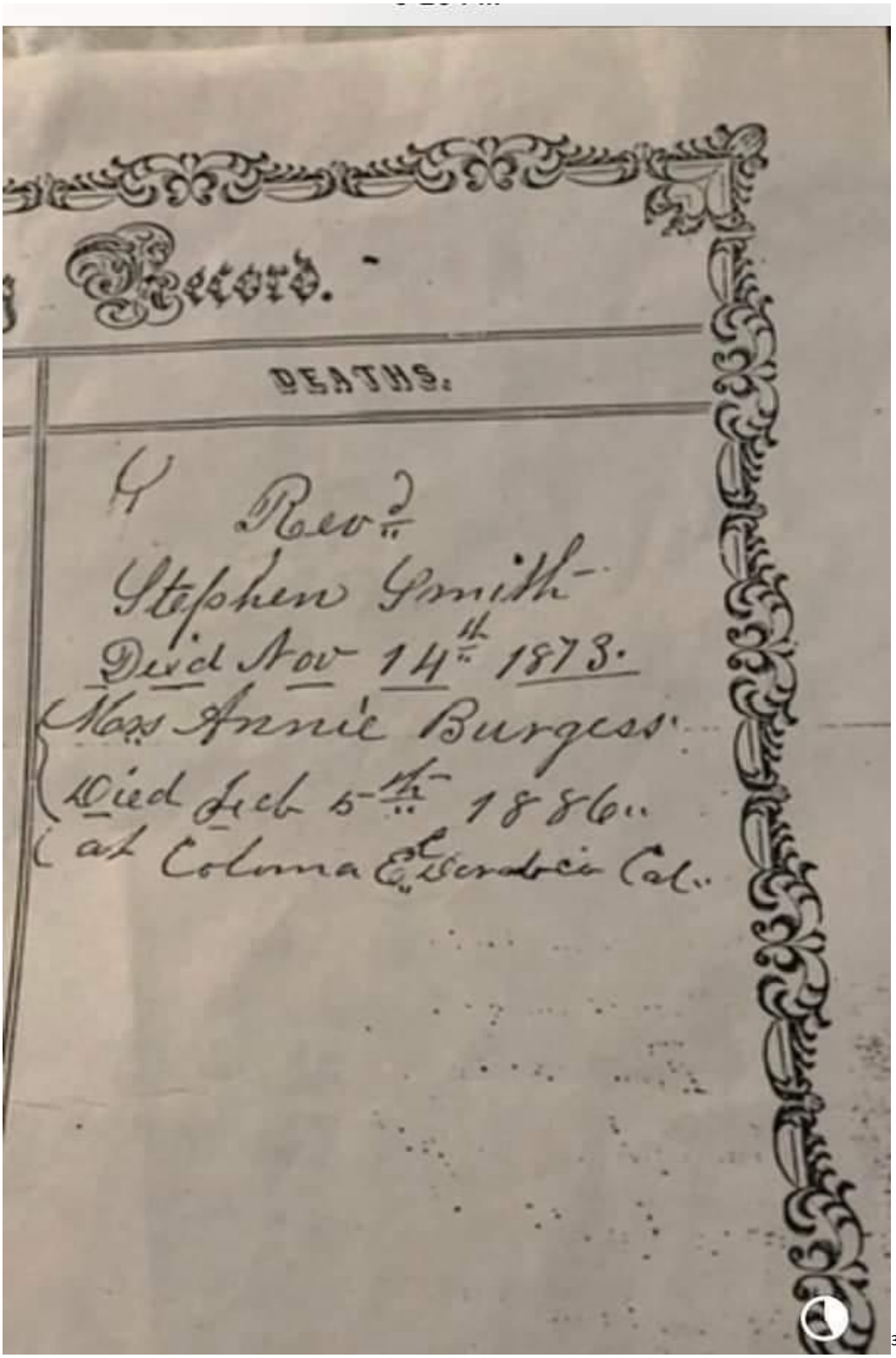
The deed dated June 26, 1879, shows George Ingham selling Lot 3, Block 7 to Rufus Burgess. This is the same lot that George Ingham had previously purchased at an El Dorado County lien sale. This parcel previously had previously been owned by the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Coloma.

After 1869 most if not all the Black Baptisms, funerals and marriages in Coloma are again being conducted by the white Methodist Episcopal clergy. Below examples of Smith, Murrish, and Dearborn who were from the white Methodist Episcopal Church, Georgetown Circuit that encompassed Coloma, and Georgetown.



33

Marriage license signed by Tomas Murrish, pastor to the Georgetown Methodist Episcopal Circuit that included Coloma.



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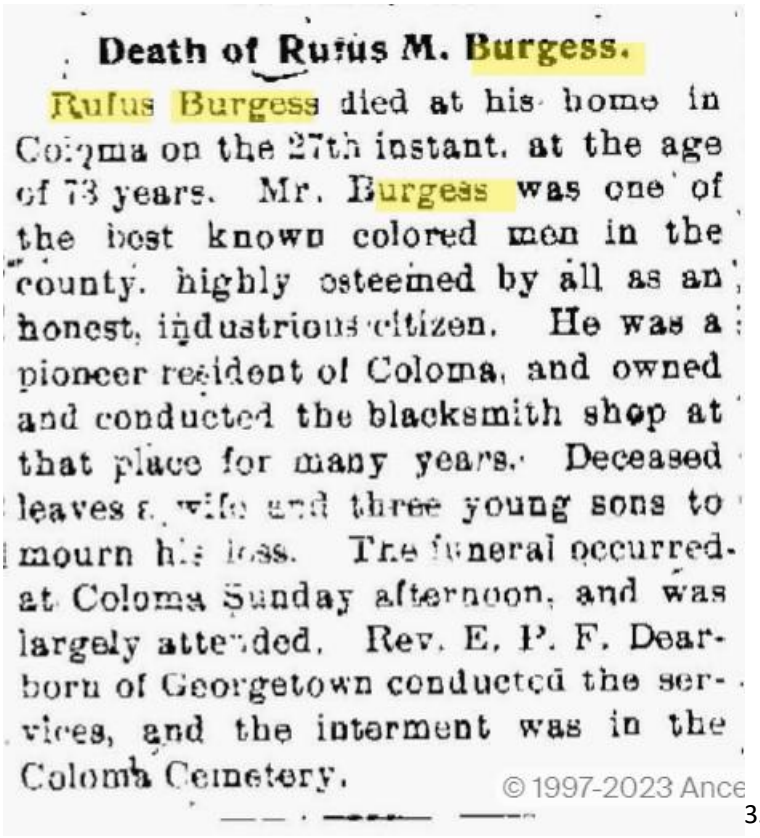
Death certificate signed by Pastor Stephen Smith of the Georgetown Methodist Episcopal Circuit that included Coloma.



Death of Rufus M. Burgess.

Rufus Burgess died at his home in Coloma on the 27th instant, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Burgess was one of the best known colored men in the county, highly esteemed by all as an honest, industrious citizen. He was a pioneer resident of Coloma, and owned and conducted the blacksmith shop at that place for many years. Deceased leaves a wife and three young sons to mourn his loss. The funeral occurred at Coloma Sunday afternoon, and was largely attended. Rev. E. P. F. Dearborn of Georgetown conducted the services, and the interment was in the Coloma Cemetery.

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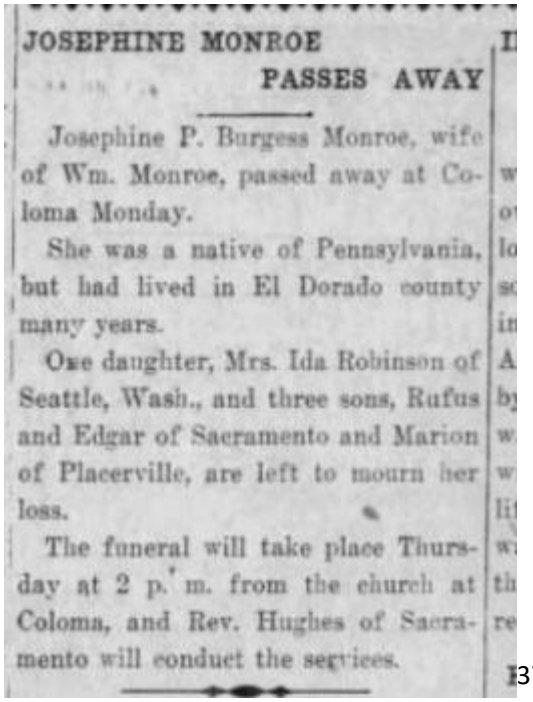
Obituary listing the Reverend Dearborn of the Georgetown Methodist Episcopal Circuit that included Coloma.

The Methodist Episcopal Church continued to serve the Black residents of Coloma as shown with the Rev. G. J. Wentzell provided services for the various Julian family members.[36]



JOSEPHINE MONROE
PASSES AWAY

Josephine P. Burgess Monroe, wife of Wm. Monroe, passed away at Coloma Monday.

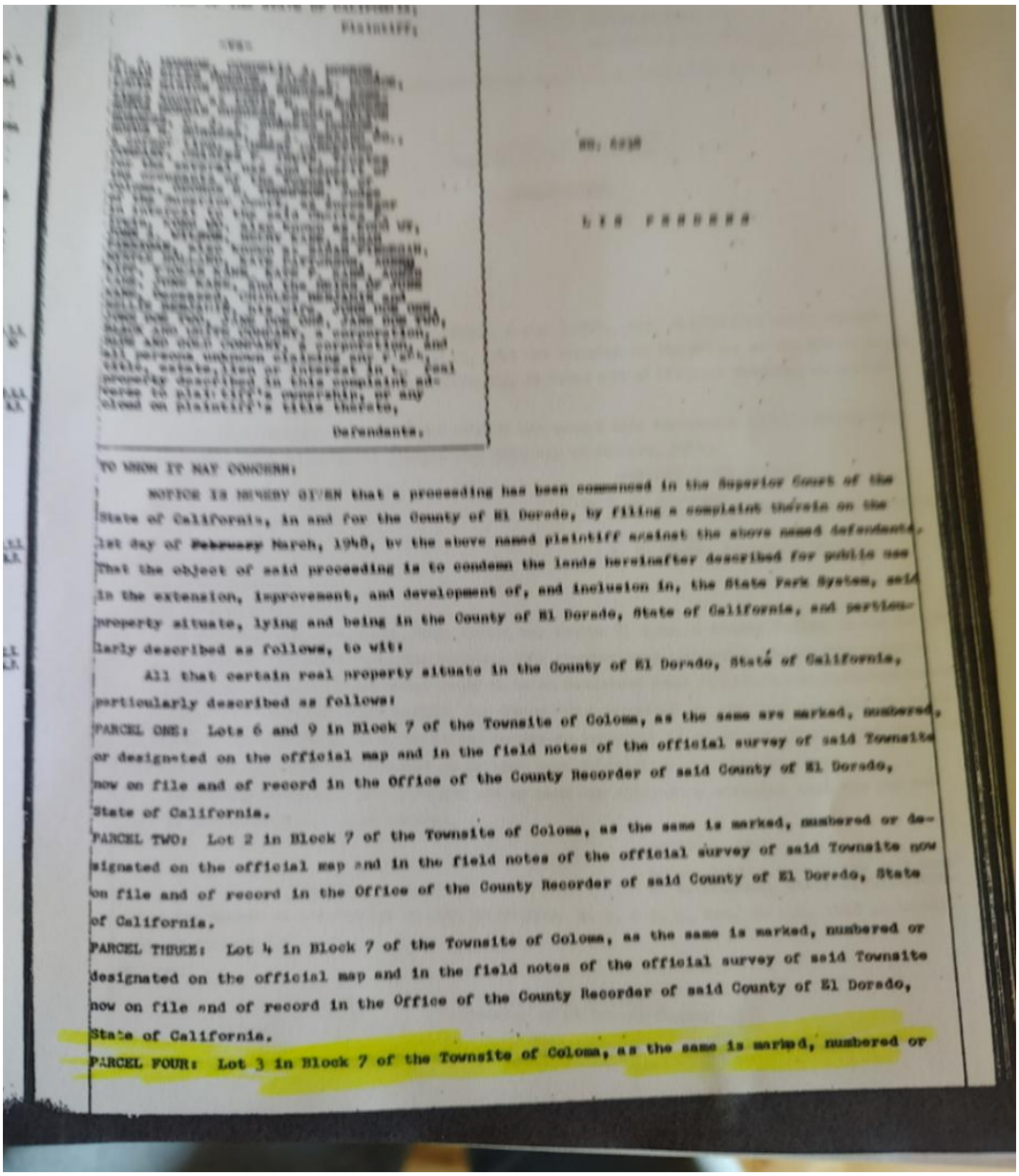
She was a native of Pennsylvania, but had lived in El Dorado county many years.

One daughter, Mrs. Ida Robinson of Seattle, Wash., and three sons, Rufus and Edgar of Sacramento and Marion of Placerville, are left to mourn her loss.

The funeral will take place Thursday at 2 p. m. from the church at Coloma, and Rev. Hughes of Sacramento will conduct the services.

At the request of her sons now living in Sacramento, the Rev. Hughes pastor of the St. Andrews AME church in Sacramento comes to Coloma in January 1921 to officiate the funeral of their mother Josephine Burgess. This funeral marked the first time since 1868 that an African Methodist Episcopal preacher was in Coloma.

Final Deed Transfer under Condemnation to the State of California occurred in 1949. Under Final Condemnation Orders, the State of California purchased two lots owned by the descendants of Rufus Burgess. These lots previously were owned by Jacob Johnson, George Ingham, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Plaintiff;

vs.

Defendants.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proceeding has been commenced in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of El Dorado, by filing a complaint therein on the 1st day of ~~February~~ March, 1948, by the above named plaintiff against the above named defendants. That the object of said proceeding is to condemn the lands hereinafter described for public use in the extension, improvement, and development of, and inclusion in, the State Park System, said property situate, lying and being in the County of El Dorado, State of California, and particularly described as follows, to wit:

All that certain real property situate in the County of El Dorado, State of California, particularly described as follows:

PARCEL ONE: Lots 6 and 9 in Block 7 of the Townsite of Coloma, as the same are marked, numbered, or designated on the official map and in the field notes of the official survey of said Townsite now on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder of said County of El Dorado, State of California.

PARCEL TWO: Lot 2 in Block 7 of the Townsite of Coloma, as the same is marked, numbered or designated on the official map and in the field notes of the official survey of said Townsite now on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder of said County of El Dorado, State of California.

PARCEL THREE: Lot 4 in Block 7 of the Townsite of Coloma, as the same is marked, numbered or designated on the official map and in the field notes of the official survey of said Townsite now on file and of record in the Office of the County Recorder of said County of El Dorado, State of California.

PARCEL FOUR: Lot 3 in Block 7 of the Townsite of Coloma, as the same is marked, numbered or

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Modern day view of orignial AME properties

Excerpt from National Park Service's 2004, *A History of Black Americans in California:*

A.M.E. Church

By the time, the Third Annual Convention of Ministers and lay delegates to the California Conference met in September 1863, substantial and comfortable houses of worship stood in Coloma, Marysville, Sacramento, Stockton, San Francisco, Grass Valley, and Nevada City. All that remains in most gold mining towns to designate the first sites of Black political activity are the words, "African Church," written across lots on nineteenth-century property maps.[40]

The final 1949 condemnation and sale of the former African Methodist Episcopal church property ended a succession of title beginning in 1853 ending another era of Coloma's rich religious history

[1] Will O Upton, *Churches of El Dorado County*, 1940, page 41.
[2] *Pacific Appeal,* June 6, 1863, page 3.
[3] *Pacific Appeal*, Communications, June 6, 1863, page 3.
[4] Richard Wright, *Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,* 1911, page 237.
[5] *United States of America, Congressional Record*, September 6, 2000, page E1409-1410.
[6] Rudolph M. Lapp, *Blacks in Gold Rush California*, 1977, page 165.
[7] Ensum Celeste Han*, All Roads lead to San Francisco: Black Californian Networks of Community and the Struggle for Equality, 1849-1877*. Dissertation, Brown University May 2015. California Digital Newspaper Collection, www.cdnc.ucr.edu, *Pacific Appeal 1862-1880*, *The Elevator, 1865-1898*.
[8] *Proceedings from the California State Convention of Colored Citizens*, 1865, October 25-29, page 23.
[9] Compared all editions of *Pacific Appeal and the Elevator* newspapers, via search at the online California Digital Newspaper Collection
[10]Deed of Trust, 3/13/1858, Jacob Johnson to Nancy Gooch, Book F, page 176.
[11] El Dorado County Recorder Clerk's book of deeds book J pages 257-259.
[12] El Dorado County Recorder/Clerk's book J, page 257-260.
[13] *Journal of Proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the Ministers and Lay Delegates of the African Episcopal Church, San Francisco Sept. 4-10th, 1863*, page 5.
[14] B.F. Lee, *An Outline of the History and Government of the African Methodist Churches, Ministerial and Lay*, 1884 page 199. www.Onlinebooks.library.open.
[15] 1863 Correspondence from Rev. TMD Ward to Issac Owen. Methodist Archives. Berkeley, CA.
[16] Letter from Bishop Campbell to Bishop Weaver, Virginia City, Feb.16, 1865, re- printed in the *Christian Recorder*, April 15, 1865. Sourced from Accessible Archives.
[17] *Journal of Proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the Ministers and Lay Delegates of the African Episcopal Church,* San Francisco Sept. 4-10th, 1863, pages 19 & 23
[18] Richard Wright, *Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,*, Page 119.
[19] Will O. Upton, Churches of El Dorado County, pages 20 &21, 42
[20] Ancestry.com, Peter Killingsworth search.
[21] Deed of Trust, 7/31/1865, from the Trustees of the AME Church of Placerville to W.H. Cooper. El Dorado County Recorder Clerk, Book J, pages 600-601.
[22] Appeal to the Friends of TMD Ward, *Pacific Appeal*, volume 4, Number 1, April 3, 1868.
[23] Rudolph M. Lapp, *Blacks in Gold Rush California*,1977, pages 164-165.
[24] Richard Wright, *Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, Page 606.
[25] Plot Map of Coloma, El Dorado County Surveyor's Office.
[26] Deed of Trust from C.H. and Mary Williams to John Wilson, El Dorado County Recorder Clerk, Book of Deeds, Book M, page 268.
[27] Jennie Beard, Coloma's Historic One-Room school House, *El Dorado Hills Style Magazine, pages 3-4, March 16, 2016*.
[28] *Growing Up,* Bishop Amos Miller, page 16
[29] Judge Irwin's deed book, page 98, Inter-County Title Co. (Tom Chandler, Chief Title Office).
[30] Judge Irwin's deed book, page 98, Inter-County Title Co. (Tom Chandler, Chief Title Office).
[31] Deed of Trust, 7/9/1879 for Lot 4, Block 7, Chas Irwin, Judge to Rufus M. Burgess, El Dorado County Recorder Clerk, Book of Deeds, Book P, page 77.

[32] Deed of Trust, 6/26/1879 for Lot 3, Block 7, George Ingham to Rufus M. Burgess, EL Dorado County Recorder Clerk, Book of Deeds, Book V, page 607-608.
[33] Baptism Record of Rufus Morgan Burgess Jr. by Thomas Murrish, Methodist Episcopal Church. Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park library.
[34] Death certificate for Annie Burgess by Stephen Smith, Methodist Episcopal Church, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historical Park library.
[35] Death notice for Rufus Burgess of Coloma, *Georgetown Gazette*, July 25th, 1900.
[36] Death notice for Peter Julian, *The Weekly Nugget*, Placerville, April 21, 1903, page 1, Elisabeth Julian, Obituary, *Mt. Democrat and Week & Placerville Times*, March 24, 1902, page 3.
[37] Death notice for Josephine Burgess, *Mt. Democrat & Placerville Times*, December 30, 1921, page 3.
[38] Notice of Impending Action, State of California, El Dorado County Recorder Clerk Book 254, page 205.
[39] Photo by Jeff Lee, 2023.
[40] *A History of Black Americans in California, AME Church*, National Park Service, 2004 nps.gov/history/online_books/5views/5views2a.htm.

Chapter 2, Methodist Episcopal Church